

Africa's Changing Environments

Trace causes, effects, and responses to environmental issues across Africa.

SS7G2 "Explain environmental issues across the continent of Africa."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each human action that contributes to an environmental issue. Circle each effect on people, land, water, or wildlife, then number the solutions in the order you find them.

Connected Environmental Challenges

- ① Across Africa, environmental problems differ by place, but people and natural systems are connected. In the Sahel, the dry region south of the Sahara, irregular rainfall and long droughts can leave little water for crops and animals. When too many animals graze the same land or trees are cut for fuel, grasses cannot recover. Wind then carries away loose soil. This process, called desertification, makes farming harder and can force families to move or seek other work.
- ② In Central Africa, parts of the Congo Basin hold vast tropical forests. These forests store carbon, provide habitats, and help cycle water through the air. Logging, road building, mining, and clearing land for farms can break forests into smaller pieces. Forest loss threatens wildlife and may change local rainfall patterns. Governments, communities, and businesses can reduce damage by protecting forests, using land carefully, and enforcing rules against illegal logging. People also need jobs and farmland, so decisions involve trade-offs.
- ③ Water pollution is another concern in several African regions. In growing cities, untreated sewage, plastic waste, and factory chemicals may enter rivers and lakes. On farms, fertilizer can wash into water after heavy rain. Polluted water can harm fish, spread disease, and make safe drinking water harder to obtain. Communities can build treatment systems, collect waste, and teach careful fertilizer use. Because rivers often cross national borders, countries may need to cooperate to protect a shared water source.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Explain how dry conditions and human actions can lead to desertification in the Sahel.

2 What are two effects that forest loss in the Congo Basin may have?

3 Name two sources of water pollution in the passage and one result of polluted water.

4 Why might countries need to cooperate to protect rivers and lakes?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose two environmental issues from the passage. Write exactly 3 sentences, 55 to 75 words, that compare their causes or effects and give one response for each issue.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each human action that contributes to an environmental issue. Circle each effect on people, land, water, or wildlife, then number the solutions in the order you find them. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Explain how dry conditions and human actions can lead to desertification in the Sahel.	Drought and irregular rainfall leave little water. Overgrazing and cutting trees prevent grasses from recovering, so wind carries away loose soil.
2	What are two effects that forest loss in the Congo Basin may have?	It threatens wildlife and may change local rainfall patterns.
3	Name two sources of water pollution in the passage and one result of polluted water.	Sources include untreated sewage, plastic waste, factory chemicals, or fertilizer runoff. Polluted water can harm fish, spread disease, or make safe drinking water harder to obtain.
4	Why might countries need to cooperate to protect rivers and lakes?	Rivers often cross national borders, so more than one country shares the water source.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Desertification in the Sahel can result from drought, overgrazing, and cutting trees, while water pollution can result from sewage and fertilizer runoff. Both problems harm people's access to needed resources, but desertification damages soil and pollution damages water and fish. Protecting grasses can reduce desertification, and treatment systems can make water safer for nearby families.

Accept accurate cause, effect, and solution language from the passage, including equivalent wording. For the open response, accept any two passage issues if the student writes exactly three sentences, compares them accurately, includes a response for each, and stays within 55 to 75 words.