

Our Shared Spaces

Trace how people can change air, water, and animal homes.

3.8.a "human activity affects the quality of air, water, and habitats;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each human action that affects air, water, or an animal habitat. Circle the words that tell what changed, then write 1 by a water effect, 2 by an air effect, and 3 by a habitat effect.

Changes Near Pine Creek

- ① After a picnic near Pine Creek, people left food wrappers on the ground after lunch. Wind pushed some wrappers into the water. A plastic bag covered rocks where small insects lived. The creek water carried the litter downstream, where fish and turtles might mistake it for food as they searched for a meal in the creek that day.
- ② Across town, cars waited in a long line outside a school. Their engines gave off exhaust, a kind of air pollution. The exhaust mixed with the air that people breathed. Some families chose to walk, ride bikes, or share rides when possible. Fewer running cars can help keep the air cleaner near their homes each day.
- ③ Later, Maya noticed a yard crew clearing brush along the creek bank. The brush had been a hiding place for birds and rabbits. Without enough plants, animals may have less shelter and fewer places to find food. The crew left several shrubs standing and planted new ones. Plants can help hold soil near the bank, too.

2

ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1

What human activity began the litter problem near Pine Creek?

2

What did the car engines give off, and what did it affect?

3

How could clearing brush make life harder for birds and rabbits?

4

Name one action from the passage that can help air quality. How does it help?

3

YOUR TURN

Your own words

Create three harmful human activities, one that affects air, one that affects water, and one that affects a habitat. Tell the effect of each activity and write a better choice people could make.

AREA	HARMFUL HUMAN ACTIVITY	EFFECT	BETTER CHOICE

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each human action that affects air, water, or an animal habitat. Circle the words that tell what changed, then write 1 by a water effect, 2 by an air effect, and 3 by a habitat effect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What human activity began the litter problem near Pine Creek?	People left food wrappers on the ground after a picnic.
2	What did the car engines give off, and what did it affect?	They gave off exhaust, which affected the quality of the air people breathed.
3	How could clearing brush make life harder for birds and rabbits?	With fewer plants, they may have less shelter and fewer places to find food.
4	Name one action from the passage that can help air quality. How does it help?	Walking, riding bikes, or sharing rides can mean fewer running cars, which can help keep the air cleaner.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

AREA	HARMFUL HUMAN ACTIVITY	EFFECT	BETTER CHOICE
Air	People leave car engines running while they wait.	Exhaust can make the air less clean.	Turn off the engine while waiting.
Water	People pour used oil into a storm drain.	The oil can pollute water.	Take used oil to a proper collection site.
Habitat	People remove plants from a pond edge.	Frogs can lose shelter and places to find food.	Leave the plants or add native plants.

Accept answers that correctly connect a human action to a change in air, water, or an animal habitat. For the table, accept varied accurate examples and reasonable better choices.