

Protect What You Breathe

Trace how pollution can affect people, animals, and daily safety.

6.9.c “major health and safety issues are associated with air and water quality;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each pollution source or pollutant in the passage. Circle each health or safety effect it can cause, then number one action that can prevent pollution.

Air and Water, Shared Resources

- ① Air can become unhealthy when particles and gases enter it. Exhaust from cars and trucks releases tiny particles and gases, including nitrogen dioxide. Breathing polluted air can irritate the lungs and trigger asthma symptoms, especially for children and people with asthma. On days when air pollution is high, people can check local air-quality reports, limit hard outdoor exercise, and avoid idling vehicles near schools. These steps lower the amount of pollution people breathe each day.
- ② Water from a stream or well can carry germs, chemicals, or other pollutants. After heavy rain, stormwater may wash animal waste, oil, fertilizer, and soil into waterways. Germs in contaminated water can cause diarrhea or other illnesses if people drink it. Fertilizer can help algae grow quickly. When large amounts of algae die, decay can use oxygen in the water, harming fish. Drinking-water systems test and treat water to make it safer for homes and schools.
- ③ Communities protect air and water by preventing pollution at its source. Factories can use equipment that captures pollutants before gases leave smokestacks. Farmers can place plant-covered strips beside streams to slow runoff and hold soil. At home, people should never pour paint, motor oil, or medicine into a drain or storm sewer. These materials can travel to water systems. Reporting a strong chemical smell or a possible spill helps trained workers respond safely and quickly.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What does vehicle exhaust release, and what health problem can polluted air cause?

2 How can heavy rain move pollution into waterways? Name one health risk from contaminated water.

3 Why can fertilizer pollution harm fish?

4 Describe one action from the passage that prevents water pollution. Explain what it keeps out of the water system.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences about a pollution source not described in the passage. Name a health or safety issue it could cause, then describe one action that could reduce the pollution.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each pollution source or pollutant in the passage. Circle each health or safety effect it can cause, then number one action that can prevent pollution. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does vehicle exhaust release, and what health problem can polluted air cause?	Vehicle exhaust releases tiny particles and gases, including nitrogen dioxide. Polluted air can irritate lungs and trigger asthma symptoms.
2	How can heavy rain move pollution into waterways? Name one health risk from contaminated water.	Stormwater can wash animal waste, oil, fertilizer, and soil into waterways. Germs in contaminated water can cause diarrhea or other illnesses when people drink it.
3	Why can fertilizer pollution harm fish?	Fertilizer can cause algae to grow quickly. When much algae dies and decays, it uses oxygen in the water, harming fish.
4	Describe one action from the passage that prevents water pollution. Explain what it keeps out of the water system.	People should not pour paint, motor oil, or medicine into a drain or storm sewer. This keeps those harmful materials from traveling to water systems.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A construction site can send dust into nearby air. Breathing the dust can irritate people's lungs, especially if they have asthma. Workers can wet exposed soil and cover truck loads to keep dust from blowing away. Accept accurate source-effect-action connections that address either air or water quality. The student's source must differ from the sources described in the passage, and the action should reasonably reduce exposure or prevent pollution.