

MAN AND ENVIRONMENT

Since ancient time nature has served man giving him everything he needs: air to breathe, food to eat, water to drink, wood for building homes and fuel for heating. For thousands of years people lived in harmony with nature and were aware of its importance. It seemed to them that the natural resources had no limit.

However, with the development of science and technology man's careless interference in nature began to increase. Of course, scientific learning and technological process make our life easier and are essential for improving the quality of life and better living standards. The pace of scientific and technological progress is breathtaking. There are more and more "breakthroughs" and technological innovations in various spheres of human activities. Science and engineering open new vistas for the development of modern civilization which provides mankind with many benefits.



However, every medal has its reverse. So, modern civilization can not only benefit people but can also be a source of mortal danger. Man's careless activities can unfavorably affect the environment and cause serious consequences. According to certain estimates about 40% of diseases throughout the world are caused by environmental factors.

The rapid scientific progress has brought about a number of problems. Currently, the matters (issues) of people's greatest concern are:

- air, water and noise pollution;
- acid rains (rain containing dangerous chemicals);
- greenhouse effect and global warming;
- the destruction of the ozone layer (a layer of gases which stop harmful radiation from the sun reaching the earth; recent research shows that there are now holes in parts of the ozone layer);
- safety of the atomic (nuclear) power stations.



It is absolutely evident that the pollution of the environment and the destruction of ecosystems have now reached threatening proportions. We now agree that scientific and technological progress is not always beneficial. The power man gets from such progress should be used wisely otherwise it will cause irreparable damage.

Today many scientists and world leaders realize that the Earth is in danger. All the problems concerning the interaction of man and nature are of international importance. They can and must be solved by the efforts

of all the countries and communities. Effective measures require global efforts and participation. Nature protection is everyone’s concern and we are all responsible for taking care of our environment to save it for the sake of the future generations. Some progress has already been made. The ecological movement has gained support worldwide for international cooperation in this field serves the interests of the whole mankind.

The 5th of June is proclaimed the World Environmental Day by the United Nations Organization and celebrated every year. The activities of many public organizations and “green” parties are aimed at nature protection (conservation). They hold conferences attracting public attention to ecological problems, broaden ecological education of the population, open environmental research centers, promote recycling, declare a war on waste. Each of us must also contribute to the protection of the environment. The best way to do it is not to leave rubbish behind when we have picnics, to save energy and paper, recycle different objects, encourage and develop environmentally friendly lifestyle and business practices.

1. Fill in the necessary prepositions:

1. People are aware the threat of the ozone layer destruction.
2. Outdoor air pollution results car exhaust fumes and smoke from factories.
3. The growing concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere results the greenhouse effect.
4. Scientists draw our attention the problem of growing noise.
5. This project is aimed saving energy.

2. Fill in the correct word from the box:

weather	exhaust	on	greenhouse	recycling	fuel
resources	environmental	atmosphere	energy		

Save it!

In recent years, the number of 1) problems has increased dangerously. One of the most serious problems is changes to the 2) which has led to the 3) ‘..... effect’; this is making most climates warmer. It is already affecting several areas of the world with unusual 4) causing droughts or heavy storms. Cutting down on 5) fumes from vehicles would help solve the problem. Natural 6) such as oil and coal are not endless, so using other forms of 7) such as wind, sun, water and even sea waves would help preserve our planet. Very soon we will be able to drive cars in cities and towns that run 8) electricity – a much cleaner 9) than petrol. And we can also help to reserve finite resources by 10) things made of glass, aluminium, plastic and paper.

3. Answer the following questions:

1. Why do ecologists say the Earth is in danger?
2. What are the benefits of technology development?
3. What are its disadvantages?
4. What are the most topical ecological problems nowadays?
5. What kinds of environmental pollution do you know?
6. What do “green” parties and organizations do for environmental protection.

4. Fill in the gaps with the appropriate word from the list:

damage	car exhaust fumes
reduce	threat
acid rain	polluting
conservation	electricity

1. New laws have been introduced to stop factories ... the atmosphere.
2. Harmful chemicals are released into the air and mix with the water in clouds to produce
3. Acid rain causes great ... to the plant and animal life.
4. Governments force power stations to ... the amount of poisonous fumes that they release into the atmosphere.
5. We can help by using less
6. If we used public transport more often, the atmosphere wouldn't be so polluted by
7. If we all make an effort, we can help to decrease the ... of acid rain.
8. ... groups try to protect animals and the places where they live.