

# Vocabulary

*Study the vocabulary words and definitions below.*

**acid rain** ..... rain that contains sulfuric acid; forms as a result of the mixture of air pollutants with moisture in the atmosphere

**conservation** ..... measures taken to save natural resources for future use

**environment** ..... all of the things that make up your surroundings

**fossil fuels** ..... fuels made from decayed plants and animals that lived millions of years ago preserved below Earth's crust  
*Examples: coal, oil, natural gas*

**hydrocarbons** ..... unburned particles of fuel that contain hydrogen and carbon; fossil fuels produce hydrocarbons

**litter** ..... waste materials found along roadsides and other public places

**nitrates** ..... pollutants found in fertilizers and detergents made of nitrogen compounds

**pesticides** ..... chemicals used to kill insects

**phosphates** ..... pollutants found in fertilizers and detergents made of phosphorus compounds

# Vocabulary

**pollutants** ..... substances in the air, water, and land that are harmful to living things

**pollution** ..... a change in the air, water, or land that is harmful or unpleasant to living things

**recycling** ..... processing materials so they can be used again

**smog** ..... a pollutant that contains nitrogen, sulfur, and hydrocarbons; creates a brown haze and unpleasant odor

**temperature inversion** ..... occurs when a layer of cool air gets trapped under a layer of warm air and acts like a lid, keeping pollutants near the ground

**thermal pollution** ..... the unnatural heating of waters