

Vocabulary

Use the vocabulary words and definitions below as a reference for this unit.

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

greenhouse effect a condition of increased heat resulting from the reflection of the sun's heat back to Earth from the atmosphere

greenhouse gases chemicals emitted into the atmosphere that add to the overall increase in Earth's temperatures

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

litter waste materials found along roadsides and other public places

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natural resources	materials found on or inside Earth's crust that people can use
nitrates	pollutants found in fertilizers and detergents made of nitrogen compounds
nonrenewable resources	materials that are used up faster than they can be replaced in nature or can be used only once
pesticides	chemicals used to kill organisms that are harmful or considered to be pests
phosphates	pollutants found in fertilizers and detergents made of phosphorus compounds
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
renewable resources	materials that can be replaced in nature at a rate close to their rate of use or used over again
smog	a pollutant that contains nitrogen, sulfur, and hydrocarbons; creates a brown haze and unpleasant odor

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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