Pollution

 Pollution occurs when harmful substances called pollutants are released into the environment, such as land, air and water.







Land pollution

- Land pollution occurs when we do not dispose of wastes and garbage properly.
- This is caused by littering or using too many materials or products that cannot be broken down easily by decomposers.
- Such waste take up space and can pile up and catch fire.
- The waste also gives off a bad smell when it breaks down.



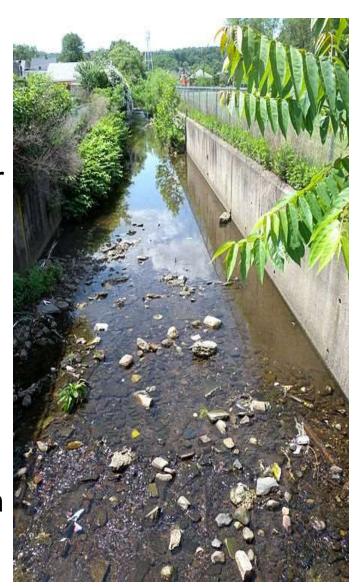
Think about it...



Products made of materials that can be broken down easily creates a more positive impact on the environment. Why?

Water pollution

- Bacteria and other harmful substances multiply very quickly in waste and can cause diseases.
- When these organisms get into water bodies, they contaminate the water that is used for drinking or Man's other activities.
- Pesticides or fertilisers used by farmers also contaminate the water when they are washed into rivers and lakes.
- They can kill the organisms living in the polluted water.

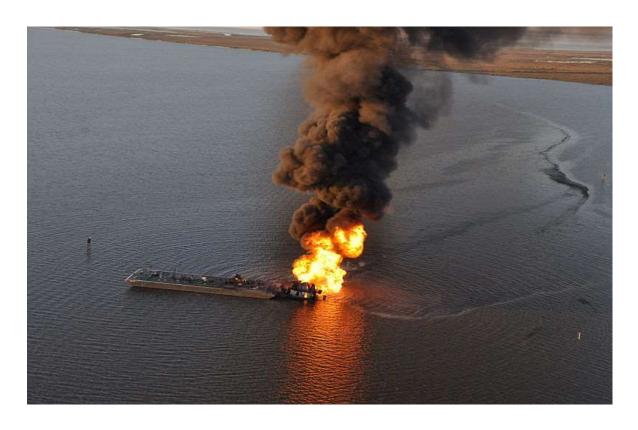


Water pollution

- Chemical waste that are discharged by factories into water bodies also pollutes the water.
- When the chemicals get into the bodies of the organisms living in the water, the organisms can be poisoned or even die.



Think about it...



Accidents between oil tankers can cause oil spills in the sea. What impact on the environment do these accidents cause?

- We have learnt that the burning of trees produces smoke and causes haze and increased carbon dioxide levels.
- Burning of fuels such as petrol, coal and wood also produces smoke.
- Vehicles contribute to air pollution when they burn fuels in order to work.
- The quality of air in places where there are more vehicles on the road is poorer.



- Factories also produce smoke and harmful gases when they burn fuels.
- When such factories do not install filters in their chimneys, harmful gases are released into the air.
- These gases can dissolve in rainwater.

 When such water evaporates and then condenses to form clouds, it falls as acid rain.

Acid rain

- It can damage buildings and structures.
- It can contaminate the water in the rivers, lakes and seas.
- It can kill organisms living on land and in the water.



CFCs

- The Earth is surrounded by a layer of ozone that protects us from most of the harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays from the Sun.
- Chemical substances such as CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) used to be found in spray cans and refrigerators.
- These substances were found to destroy the ozone layer and cause it to become thinner.
- This results in more UV rays reaching the Earth more easily.
- This can kill plants and also cause sunburns, eye problems and skin cancer.