

River Glen School

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Special Interest Articles:

- Water Pollution
- Air Pollution
- Oil Spills

POLLUTION ESSAYS

By Seventh Grades RSP Students

The seventh grade RSP students at River Glen School wrote these essays as part of a collaborative project with students from Almaden Elementary in San Jose and Zanker Elementary in Milpitas. They were originally published on the students' individual

web sites hosted by Think.com. The essays were then read and commented on by the students from the other two schools as well as other students who visited the web sites.

WATER POLLUTION

By Gabriel Gomez

Have you ever stepped on garbage or sludge on the beach or in the water? If yes, that was water pollution. Many things cause water pollution.

To begin, water pollution can be caused by oil spills. Oil tankers can crash into other boats or rocks and cause oil spills. Offshore oil drilling can also cause oil spills. Oil spills can kill birds by coating their feathers with oil, so they can't stay warm. Oil is also poisonous, so it can kill fish and other animals.

In addition, water pollution can be caused by untreated sewage. Untreated sewage can come from broken sewer lines and septic tanks. Pathogens such as bacteria, viruses, and protozoa can enter the water from untreated sewage. Sewage from sinks, toilets, and industries should always be treated before it is buried or released back into

local water systems.

Last, fertilizers and pesticides from fields are also a cause of water pollution. The fertilizers and pesticides from fields can make algae grow. When the algae die, it uses up the oxygen in the water during decomposition, which can kill fish and other animals. The algae can also block waterways. The pesticides can kill animals and plants in the water.

In conclusion, water pollution can come from oil spills, untreated sewage, fertilizers, and pesticides. All of us should get together to prevent water pollution. We should work with environmental organizations such as the Sierra Club to prevent water pollution.

Water Pollution

By Martin Lomeli

Last summer I went to the Guadalupe River, and saw a lot of garbage. Do you like water pollution? I don't. Many different things cause water pollution.

First of all, water pollution can be the result of sewage and fertilizers going into streams and rivers. This type of water pollution makes algae grow that closes waterways and blocks light. It can be poisonous.

Next, suspended solids can cause water pollution. Solids enter the water from farms and construction sites. This kind of pollution can make it difficult for fish to breathe. It also reduces how deep the

water is.

Last, bacteria and protozoa can cause water pollution. These pollutants use up oxygen. They can cause diseases such as typhoid, skin disease, and dysentery. These bacteria and protozoa can come from leaking sewage and septic tanks.

In conclusion, water pollution can happen in different ways. People should work to protect our water. One thing people can do is write to the government and ask that laws be passed that prevent chemicals being put in our water.

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Water Pollution

By Liliana Paniagua

When I went to the beach, the water was many different colors from pollution. Do you like water pollution? I don't. People can deal with water pollution in many different ways.

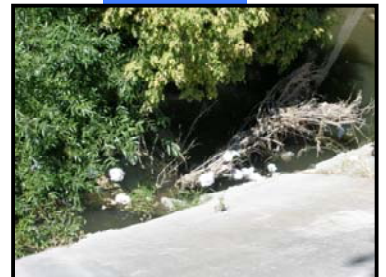
One kind of water pollution is from pathogens. They can cause illnesses such as typhoid and dysentery. Pathogens go into water through untreated sewage, septic tanks, and boats that dump sewage. People need to prevent this kind of water pollution by treating sewage before it's released. Also, people need to use septic tanks that are maintained properly.

In addition, there are different kinds of treatment people can use to reduce water pollution. Cities can have wastewater management systems to treat sewage.

Farmers can have settling basins for used water plus limited biological treatment in aerobic or anaerobic lagoons.

Another kind of water pollution comes from chemicals being dumped into the water from factories. A recent chemical spill in China poisoned the drinking water of cities downstream. These chemicals can cause cancer or poison people. Government can make laws to prevent this type of water pollution.

In conclusion, water pollution can be reduced by people treating their sewage, preventing sewage from entering the water, and by not dumping chemicals in water. All of us need to make sure laws are passed to keep our water clean.



Garbage in creek in San Jose

Air Pollution

By Vicente Castellanos

Do you think that cars cause air pollution? I do. Cars and many other things can cause air pollution.

To begin with, cars cause air pollution. Cars make carbon monoxide. They also make nitrogen oxides. Ox3 is a major contribution to smog and acid rain. Acid rains can kill the life in lakes and rivers. You can help prevent air pollution from cars by not driving at high speeds and buying cars that get high miles per gallon. You could also buy electric cars.

In addition many other things cause air pollution. Ground level ozone is produce by burning coal, gasoline, and chemicals found in hair sprays. Ozone can cause problems. Sulfur dioxide is a gas

produced by burning coal. Sulfur dioxide is a major cause of smog and acid rain. Dry cleaning releases compounds that can cause cancer.

Also, air pollution has thinned, the protective ozone layer above the surface layer. Refrigerators and air conditioners produce chlorofluorocarbons that lead to a reduction in the ozone. The ozone layer protects the earth surface from the sun.

In conclusion, these are some chemicals and items that cause air pollution. What do you think we should do? I think we should buy electric cars and reduce using appliances that release chlorofluorocarbons carbons.



Air pollution from a factory

Air Pollution

By Vincent Trillo

In addition to being irritating, air pollution can cause health problems. Pollution can cause cancer or give you asthma and birth defects. In addition, it can cause brain and nerve damage. It can affect your lung Have you ever been riding your bike and felt as if you could barely breath? It is because of all that air pollution. Air pollution is caused by many things and can cause many problems.

To begin with, air pollution can be caused by cars and can come from harmful chemicals escaping from refrigerators and air conditioners and from factories. You should avoid carbon monoxide. Also, besides carbon monoxide there are chlorofluorocarbons from refrigerators and air containers. They can reduce the ozone layer that protects us from the sun. There are other

hazardous air pollutants such as nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide from factories. They can cause smog and acid rain.

In addition to being irritating, air pollution can cause health problems. Pollution can cause cancer or give you asthma and birth defects. In addition, it can cause brain and nerve damage. It can affect your lungs.

Lastly, there are many ways to prevent air pollution. You should avoid high speeds when driving, use your bike more often, limit dry cleaning, and eat organically grown food that doesn't use chemicals to kill insects.

To conclude, air can be made cleaner. All of us should try to help make sure to find out what is causing all this pollution and try to stop it.

Pollution can cause cancer or give you asthma and birth defects. In addition, it can cause brain and nerve damage."

Air Pollution

By Jenee Zepeda

Do you think that air pollution happens by itself? Well, you're wrong. There are many reasons why there is air pollution. The reasons are carbon monoxide, chlorofluorocarbons, and many more.

First, carbon monoxide is one of the reasons why air pollution starts. Some of the things that cause carbon monoxide are fuels including gasoline, oil, and wood. The side effects are that low concentrations cause dizziness, headaches, and fatigue. High concentrations can be fatal.

Second, chlorofluorocarbons are another reason why air pollution starts. The

things that make chlorofluorocarbons are chemicals that enter the air and are toxic. Some of the effects are hazardous and can lead to death.

Finally, sulfur dioxide can cause air pollution. One of the ways sulfur dioxide can happen is by the burning of coal, oil, or natural gas. The side effects are smog and acid rain. Smog can cause breathing problems. Acid rain kills living things in lakes and rivers.

In conclusion, these are some of the things that cause air pollution. You can stop the air pollution by buying electric cars and by asking the government to pass laws against pollution from factories.

Oil Spills

By Albert Ricardez

Have you ever seen an animal die from an oil spill? Ships, cars, boats, people, and many other things cause oil spills.

First of all, oil spills usually come from ships that sometimes leak oil into the ocean. Ships spill oil when they hit rocks or even other ships. Sometimes ships run into walls or other boats. For example, the Exxon Valdez oil spill was the largest oil spill in the world. The oil spill took place March 23, 1989, at Prince William Sound in Alaska. Also equipment breaking down may cause an oil spill. If the equipment breaks down, the tanker may get stuck on shallow land and once the crew is gone, the tanker will have a hole and oil will spill.

In addition, people might cause an oil spills in other ways. Terrorists may cause an oil spill, because they will dump lots of oil into the country's ocean. Illegal dumpers are people that spill crude oil into the oceans, because they don't want to spend lots of money on decomposing it.

In conclusion, oil spills can happen in many ways. We need to develop equipment, procedures, and laws to help prevent oil spills.



Oil Tanker.

Middle school students in the RSP class at River Glen School wrote the articles in this newsletter. The pictures were taken by Mary Howland or downloaded from Clipart.com.