



Sample reading item

How does pollution affect animals?

Many animals are dying because of pollution. All types of environmental pollution have negative impact on animal's health, and the worst types of pollution are air, water and noise pollution. Even small levels of environmental pollution create discomfort for many animals while on the other hand

more excessive pollution leads to diseases and deaths of animals.

Many people ignore the fact that our planet is now polluted more than ever before, and that many animals are dying because of it. They fail to see the importance of these animals, and underestimate the importance of biodiversity in general. Biodiversity is the key to human well being, and we should be definitely doing more to stop huge biodiversity loss that is also a serious threat to our own survival.

Air pollution is particularly dangerous to animals when in form of the acid rain. Acid rains kills fish in lakes and streams by increasing the acidity of water. Other forms of air pollution such as ozone are also harmful to animals, for instance ozone pollution can cause serious damage to lung tissues of many animals.

Water pollution has extremely negative impact on many animals. Water polluted with different chemicals can cause decline of population in some species (such as frog), while on the other hand water polluted with nutrients can lead to huge growth of toxic algae which when eaten by other animals may cause serious diseases and death to these animals.

Noise pollution is also becoming huge problem for many animals, especially animals that live in our oceans and seas. Because of the increased ship traffic and offshore oil drilling noise pollution has started affecting very large number of marine animals. Whales and dolphins are among animals most affected by noise pollution. This is because they use their sense of hearing for many purposes such as hunting for prey, navigation, migration and distinguishing the members of the same species and with so many artificial sounds in our oceans they are having tough time to distinguish them all.

Littering can also lead to death of many animals because of toxic substances in trash (for instance motor oil, detergents, pesticides) that once eaten by animals often lead to their deaths. Animals can also die by getting themselves entangled in many of the litter items people dump into our environment.



By reducing all forms of environmental pollution on our planet we could save millions of animals but sadly world is currently not doing enough, and pollution issue is therefore constantly growing in size. Add to this climate change and deforestation and you'll soon realize why so many animals are finding it very hard to survive.

Reading Comprehension Test

1. What is the main idea of this passage?

- a. Animals need to survive in our environment
- b. There are many different types of pollution
- c. Many animals are dying due to pollution in our environment

2. Complete the sentence with the correct information.

The worst types of pollution are air, water, _____.

- a. noise
- b. soil, and noise
- c. garbage

3. Small amounts of pollution may lead to weakened animals.

Excessive amounts of pollution causes _____.

- a. diseases and deaths of animals
- b. change in the habitation of animals
- c. decreased population of certain animal species

4. According to the author, many people ignore the fact that _____.

- a. our planet is polluted and animals are dying
- b. there are many endangered species of animals
- c. animals are affected by changing climate

5. Why is air pollution considered dangerous to animals?

- a. The ozone protects animals from serious lung damage
- b. Animals must breathe air which might damage their hearts
- c. Acid rain, the result of air pollution, kills fish who live in lakes and streams

6. How are animals affected by water pollution?

- a. Algae found in polluted water adds nutrients to the water
- b. Chemicals found in water can destroy some species of animals such as frogs
- c. Animal diseases are caused by drinking of muddy water

7. The author states that noise pollution is becoming a huge problem for animals.

The reasons given by the author are _____.

- a. Increased ship traffic and offshore oil drilling which affects marine animals
- b. Humans are spending more recreational time in the ocean, causing disturbance to animals
- c. Different species of fish and ocean life are changing the eco-system

8. Why are dolphins and whales the most affected by noise pollution?

- a. Dolphins and whales are found in warm waters
- b. Dolphins and whales swim in close proximity to boats and ships
- c. Dolphins and whales use their sense of hearing for hunting, navigation, and migration, and can be distracted by artificial sounds

9. The author claims littering leads to the death of many animals. What are some stated examples of littering?

10. What is the author's intent and message to the reader?

11. To what extent do you think air pollution is contributing to the animals' health and well-being? To support your opinion, use two evidences from the article.

12. Do you think the author made a convincing argument about pollution and the effects on animals? Why or why not?

13. What solution does the author suggest? What would be your solution to this problem?