

Quick Vocabulary

Lesson 1

carrying capacity largest number of individuals of a given species that Earth's resources can support and maintain for a long period of time

population all the members of a species living in a given area

resource natural source of supply or support

Lesson 2

deforestation removal of large areas of forest for human purposes

desertification development of desertlike conditions due to human activities and/or climate change

dispose to throw away

reclamation the process of restoring land disturbed by mining

reforestation planting trees to replace trees that have been cut or burned down

runoff portion of precipitation that moves over land and eventually reaches streams, rivers, lakes, and oceans

urban sprawl development of land near a city to build houses and other buildings

Quick Vocabulary

Lesson 3

nonpoint-source pollution type of pollution that results from several widespread sources that cannot be traced back to a single location

point-source pollution type of pollution that can be identified from a single source

Lesson 4

acid precipitation rain or snow that has a lower pH than that of normal rainwater

Air Quality Index (AQI) scale that ranks levels of ozone and other air pollutants

global warming increase in Earth's average surface temperature

greenhouse effect natural process that occurs when certain gases in the atmosphere absorb and reradiate thermal energy from the Sun

particulate matter mix of solid and liquid particles in the air, including smoke, dust, and dirt

photochemical smog type of air pollution that occurs when nitrogen and carbon compounds, released by the burning of fossil fuels, react in sunlight