

● What are the main problems facing the environment?

A big problem is air / water pollution / the greenhouse effect / climate change / the melting of the polar ice caps. The hole in the ozone layer is a problem because when strong sunlight gets through the hole to the earth, it can cause cancer in humans. Cutting down rainforests is dangerous because we need the oxygen that comes from rainforests.

● How does the growth in population affect the environment?

There are over 7 billion people living on the planet and they are putting pressure on the earth's resources. Forests are being used for fuel and are being cleared for growing crops. Humans are causing more pollution in the oceans / using more fossil fuels. There are more cars on the roads causing air pollution.

● What is the impact on our oceans / water?

We are heavily polluting our waters / oceans with waste / plastics / chemicals from factories. Oil tankers leak fuel and oil, which kill fish and plant life. Humans are overfishing.

● What is global warming / the greenhouse effect?

Climate scientists say that gases like carbon dioxide are causing global warming. The greenhouse effect is when the air or atmosphere gets too hot. Air warmed by the sun gets trapped close to the ground and can't escape. It is caused by too much carbon dioxide in the air, from factories, electricity plants and cars.

● What is climate change and what can happen when the climate changes?

Climate change is when there are long-lasting / permanent changes in an area's weather patterns. These changes can cause extreme weather conditions like floods / snow storms / very hot / cold weather / hurricanes / tornadoes / droughts. These natural disasters are destroying homes and land. Lots of people believe that human activities (pollution, toxic chemicals...) are affecting climate change.

● What is biodiversity? Why is it important?

Biodiversity means all the different plants / animals that are in an area. If an area changes too much / is destroyed, it can cause animals / plants to become extinct / to die out / to disappear. If one animal dies out, other animals can't feed on it / the life cycle or food chain is broken, and in the end this affects more species. People are also concerned about genetically modified foods affecting the natural food chain.

● What kinds of environmental problems do you have in your region?

In my area there are a few / some / a lot of problems. The biggest problem is air / water / noise pollution because there are many factories / industrial areas / people in my area. There is also a lot of traffic / litter / coal-burning heaters. Many people throw rubbish on the ground / waste water / waste electricity / don't recycle because they are lazy / don't care.

● What does it mean when something is environmentally friendly?

If something is environmentally friendly, it is good / harmless for the environment / does not have any impact on the environment. Products that are environmentally friendly are made from recycled / safe / non-toxic ingredients that are not harmful to ecosystems / bad for the earth.

● How can a person be environmentally friendly?

I can be friendly to the environment by picking up my rubbish / recycling / reducing my own personal waste. I can use low-energy light bulbs / turn off lights / electronic devices when they are not being used. I can cut down on pollution by using public transport / riding a bicycle / walking. I can save water by taking shorter showers / fewer baths / saving rainwater to use in my garden. I can use cloth shopping bags instead of plastic bags. I can recycle all of my paper / glass / plastic waste.

● Which things / materials can be recycled?

Paper and cardboard can be recycled by mixing it with water and creating new paper or cardboard products. Glass bottles can be cleaned and used again or melted down and used for different purposes. Vegetable peelings / scraps of food can be put on a compost heap / put back into the earth / turned into soil. Juice and milk cartons / boxes can be recycled. Plastic bottles can be melted down and made into plastic pipes / toys / converted into polyester, which is used for jumpers / tops. Cans / Tins can be melted down and used again. Wood and timber can be shredded and made into chipboard.

● What is alternative energy?

Alternative energy is energy that does not come from fossil fuels like coal and oil / that is clean / renewable. You can get clean energy from the sun / water / wind. Nuclear energy is clean but storing used nuclear fuel can cause problems to the environment like water / air pollution. It can also be very dangerous if there is a meltdown / an explosion at a nuclear power station.

