The Environment and You

Environment - everything around us affecting our lives.

Basic Needs

- oxygen
- atmospheric pressure
- water
- food
  - plants
  - animals
- energy
- materials

Planet Earth

Basic Needs Threatened

- Oxygen - atmospheric pollution
- water - polluted streams and ground water
- food - air and water pollution; global warming
  - plants
  - animals
- energy - depleted resources
- materials - depleted resources

Atmospheric Pollution

- Cars, trucks, factories, and coal fired power plants pump damaging gases into the atmosphere
- Global warming may be caused by the massive amounts of carbon dioxide being generated
- Acid rain is primarily caused by coal fired power plants

Water Pollution

- Pesticides and fertilizers from our chemically treated lawns and farms pollute our streams
- Industries dump chemical into our streams
- Cruise boats and oil tankers pollute the oceans

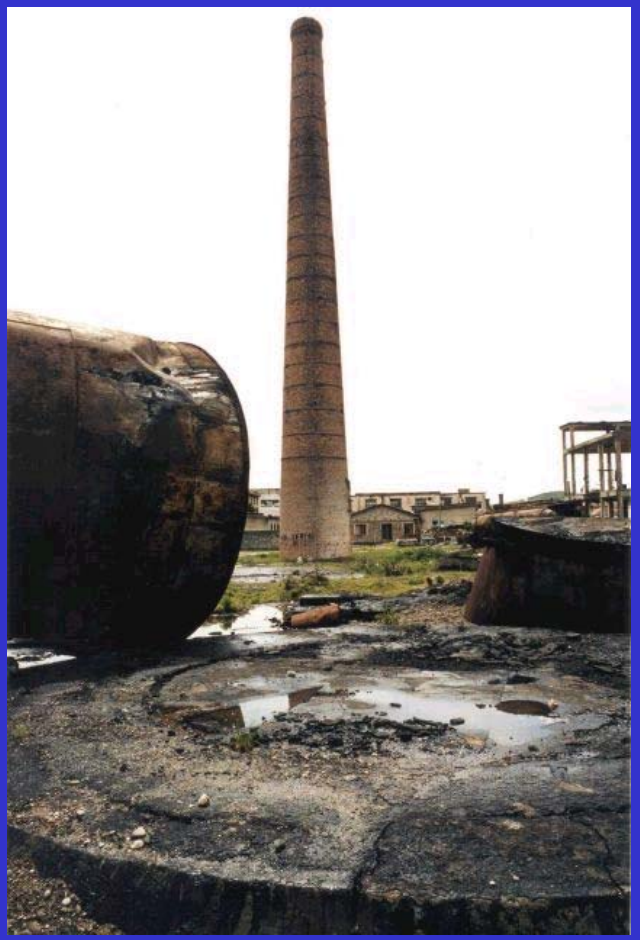
Endangered Food Supply

- Polluted streams, lakes and oceans poison our fish
- Acid rain reduces our crop yields by making them more susceptible to diseases

Depleted Resources

- Some experts believe the world's oil supply will be all gone in 40 years, others say 200 years
- Our forests, particularly the rain forests, are managed wastefully
- Our landfills are expanding at an alarming rate

Industrial Legacy



Abandoned Factories and mines often leave extensive pollution behind

Garbage Dumps

More and more land is devoted to garbage dumps

Atmospheric Pollution

Chemical plants pump millions of tons of gases into the atmosphere

Is This Our Future?

Fuel Economy Comparisons

=

+

- An SUV burns as much gas as two full size sedans
- Other cars are even more fuel efficient
- Solar powered cars do not use any gas

What can Galaxy Explorers do?

- Recycling reduces burden on landfills and natural resources
- Walk or ride a bike! Each gallon of gasoline used by a vehicle releases 22 pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere contributing to global warming
- Drive fuel efficient vehicles
- Use organic lawn fertilizers and leave grass clippings
- Use chemical pesticides sparingly or never
- Contact your elected representatives and tell them to enforce environmental restrictions on industries and citizens
- Don’t buy things you don’t need and discard things only when they are worn out
- Please turn off the lights and appliances when not needed

CAUTION

- Environmental claims made by extremists are sometimes highly exaggerated for effect
- The problems are real however
- We Galaxy Explorers must set an example of the stewardship needed to preserve life on Planet Earth

Activity

- Make a poster explaining how we can maintain a healthy environment on Earth
- Choose one or more topics
  - atmospheric pollution
  - water pollution
  - threats to food supply
  - energy waste
  - natural resource depletion
  - other