

Vocabulary	Explanation	Translation
accountability	a position where people have the right to criticize you or ask you why something happened	
acid rain	rain that contains a high level of acid that can damage the environment. The acid forms when harmful gases from industry and vehicles mix with water in the atmosphere	
afforestation	the process of planting many trees on an area of land	
biodegradable	decaying naturally in a way that is not harmful to the environment	
biodiversity	the variety of types of living things in a particular region	
biome	a region that is classified by its climate and the types of animals and plants that are living in it. The rainforest and the tundra are biomes.	
cancer	a serious illness caused by a group of cells in the body increasing in an uncontrolled way.	
canopy	the highest leaves and branches in a forest	
carbon dioxide	gas without colour or smell, produced when you breathe out or when substances containing carbon are burnt.	
chemical dumping	the process of getting rid of used or waste chemicals in a particular area, or the illegal activity involved in this process	
climate change	important and possibly harmful changes that some scientists believe are taking place in the world's weather because of increased pollution in the atmosphere.	
concentrated	concentrated liquids or substances have been made stronger by having water removed	
consequence	a result or effect of something	
contaminated	made dirty, polluted, or poisonous by the addition of a chemical, waste or infection.	
damage	physical harm caused to something so that it is broken, spoiled, or injured/ negative effects on something or someone	
deadly	able or likely to kill people	

decommission	to stop using something such as weapon, ship, or nuclear power station	
deforestation	the process of cutting down and removing trees, especially from large areas of land. Deforestation is bad for the environment, as there are fewer trees to take in carbon dioxide and this can lead to an increase in global warming. It also involves the destruction of habitats and can cause soil erosion.	
degradation	the process by which the land or the environment becomes damaged or polluted	
desertification	the process of land becoming so dry that it cannot be used for farming. This is often the result of human activities such as overgrazing and deforestation.	
destry	to damage something so severely that it no longer exist or can never return to its normal state.	
devastate	to seriously damage or completely destroy something	
dioxin	a poisonous chemical produced during the process of making chemicals for killing plants	
disposal	the process of getting rid of something	
ecological	relating to the environment and the way organism affect each other	
ecology	the study of the environment and the way organism affect each other	
ecosystem	all the plants, animals, and other organism in a particular area considered in relation to the environment that they live in and the way they all depend on each other.	
ecotourism	the business of creating and selling holidays that give people the chance to learn about a natural environment, and cause as little damage to the environment as possible.	
effluent	liquid waste such as sewage or waste from a factory	
emit	to send something out into the air, especially gas, light or heat	
endangered species	a type of animal or plant that may soon become extinct, for example because its habitat is being destroyed or because it has been hunted or gathered far too much in the past	

environment	the place in which people live and work, including all the physical conditions that affect them/ the natural world, including the land, water, air, plants, and animals	
environmental	relating to the natural world and the effect that human activities has on it.	
environmentalist	someone whu wants to protect the environment	
environmentally friendly	not harming the natural environment	
exhaust	gases or steam produced by an engine as it works	
flooding	a situation in which water from river or from rain covers large areas of land	
forested	covered with trees	
forestry	the science of caring for forest, and the trees and other plants that grow in them	
fossil fuel	a fuel such as coal, oil, or natural gas made from decayed material from organism that lived many miliions of years ago	
fumes	smoke or gas that has an unpleasant smell, especially harmful smoke or gas	
greenhouse effect	the process by which the Earth's surface and lower atmosphere is getting warmer as a result of pollution by gases such as carbon dioxide. The heat from the sun cannot escape, leading to general increase in the Earth's temperature called global warming	
greenhouse gas	a gas that stops heat from escaping from the Earth's atmosphere and causes the greenhouse effect. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas. The lvel of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere has increased in recent years mainly because of the burning of focssil fuels and also because of deforestation	
habitat	the type of place that a particular organism usually lives in, for example a desert, forest, or lake.	
hazardous	dangerous, especially to people's health or safety	
illness	the state of feeling ill or having a disease	
incinerate	to burn something completely	

interfere	deliberately become involved in a situation and try to influence the way that it develops, although you have no right to do this	
intervene	to become involved in a situation in order to try to stop or change it	
lead	a soft heavy gray metal used especially in the past for making pipes, covering roofs, and in paint	
leakage	the process of leaking a liquid or gas	
logging	the act of cutting down trees for wood, usually in order to sell it at a profit.	
natural disaster	something that happens in nature and causes a lot of damage or kills a lot of people, for example a flood or an earthquake	
non-biodegradable	not able to decay naturally, and therefore harmful to the environment	
non-renewable	non-renewable energy, fuel, or other raw materials exist in limited amounts only and cannot be replaced once they have been used. Oil is an example of a non-renewable resource.	
nuclear radiation	a form of energy produced during nuclear reaction that is used for making electrical power but can also kill or harm humans who receive too much of it.	
oil slick	a layer of oil on the surface of a large area of water, for example after a ship has sunk	
organic	used for describing methods of farming and food production that do not use artificial chemicals	
organism	a living thing such as person, animal, or plant, especially extremely small living thing.	
overgrazing	a situation in which land is damaged because of the cows or other animals in it have been allowed to eat too much of the grass there, or have been allowed to feed on it for too long.	
overheat	to become too hot, or to make something too hot, sometimes causing damage	
ozone hole	a hole in the ozone layer thought to be caused by light reacting with some chemicals such as CFCs	

ozone layer	a layer of ozone in the Earth's atmosphere that protects the Earth from some of the harmful effects of the sun	
penetrate	to get inside an object or body by getting through something	
permanent	happening or existing for a long time or for all time in the future	
pesticide	a chemical used for killin insects that damage crops	
phosphate	a chemical that contains phosphorus, used especially for making plants grow	
planet	the planet Earth and everything on it	
pollutant	a substance that is harmful to the environment, especially a chemical. Large amouts of noise, heat etc can also be pollutants	
pollution	the process of damaging the air, water, land or organisms with chemicals or other substances. Pollution is almost always caused by human activity, for example during the process of getting rid of chemical waste from factories and the production of carbon emissions from cars.	
preservation	the process of working to protect something so that it is not damaged or destroyed	
protect	to keep someone or something safe from harm, injury, damage, or loss	
rainfall	the amount of rain that falls in a particular area during a particular period of time	
rainforest	a forest in a tropical region of the world where it rains a lot. Rainforests are considered to be important environmental areas with large numbers of different fast because of land neing cleared for development and the activities of logging companies.	
reclaim	to improve an area of land so that it can be used.	
recycle	to treat waste materials so that they can be used again.	
reduce	to make something smaller or less in size, amount, importance etc.	
reforestation	the act of putting new trees into a place where the original trees have been cut down.	

renewable	renewable energy and natural materials replace themselves by natural processes, so that they are never completely used up.	
reserve	an area of land where wild animals or plants are officially protected	
run off	a flow of water or chemicals from one place to another, especially when this damages the environment	
sanctuary	a place where you can be safe and comfortable.	
sewage	waste substances, especially waste from people's bodies, removed from houses and other buildings by a system of large underground pipes called sewers	
solar energy	energy that uses the radiation of the Sun's light and heat.	
sustainable development	the development of a country or region that does not use more natural resources than can be replaced and so does not harm the environment.	
transpiration	the process in which water that has travelled from the roots of a plant up to its leaves passes out into the air as vapour.	
urbanization	the process by which towns and cities grow bigger and more and more people go to live in them.	