Aquatic and Terrestrial Pollution

AP Environmental Science · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
• **point source** /pɔɪnt sɔːs/	A small lamp acts as a **point source** of light.
nonpoint source /ˌnɒnˈpɔɪnt sɔːs/	Farm runoff is a **nonpoint source** of pollution.
endocrine disruptors /ˈendəʊkraɪn dɪsˈrʌptəz/	**Endocrine disruptors** interfere with hormones.
wetland	A **wetland** filters dirty water.
mangroves /ˈmæŋgrəʊvz/	**Mangroves** protect coasts from storms.
eutrophication /ˌjuːtrəfɪˈkeɪʃn/	**Eutrophication** happens when fertiliser runs into a lake.
algal bloom /ˈælgl bluːm/	Fertiliser in a lake can cause an **algal bloom**.
hypoxic /ˌhaɪpəʊˈzɪk/	**Hypoxic** water has too little oxygen for fish.
thermal pollution /ˈθɜːml pəˈluːʃn/	Hot wastewater causes **thermal pollution** in a river.
persistent organic pollutants /pəˈsɪstənt ɔːˈgænɪk pəˈluːtənts/	**Persistent organic pollutants** stay in the environment for years.
bioaccumulation /ˌbaɪəʊəˌkjuːmjʊˈleɪʃn/	**Bioaccumulation** builds up poison inside one animal over time.
biomagnification /ˌbaɪəʊˌmægnɪfɪˈkeɪʃn/	In **biomagnification**, poisons build up at each step of a food chain.

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sanitary municipal landfill	A **sanitary municipal landfill** has a liner to stop leaks.
incineration /ɪnˌsɪnəˈreɪʃn/	**Incineration** burns waste and leaves ash.
e-waste /iː weɪst/	Old phones are **e-waste**.
garbage patches /ˈgɑːbɪdʒ ˈpætʃɪz/	Ocean currents collect plastic into **garbage patches**.
reduce, reuse, recycle /rɪˈdjuːs riːˈjuːz rɪˈsaɪkl/	**Reduce, reuse, recycle** cuts the waste we make.
composting /ˈkɒmpɒstɪŋ/	**Composting** turns food and garden waste into useful organic material.
sewage treatment /ˈsuːɪdʒ ˈtriːtmənt/	**Sewage treatment** cleans dirty water.
LD50 /ˌel diː ˈfɪfti/	The **LD50** is the dose that kills half of the test animals.
dose–response curve /dəʊs rɪˈspɒns kɜːv/	A **dose–response curve** shows how effects grow with dose.
threshold /ˈθreʃəʊld/	The alarm goes off above a **threshold** temperature.
dysentery /ˈdɪsəntəri/	Dirty water can cause **dysentery**.
pathogens /ˈpæθədʒnz/	Bacteria and viruses can be **pathogens**.
cholera /ˈkɒlərə/	**Cholera** spreads through dirty water.
plague /pleɪg/	Fleas on rats spread the **plague**.

Word	Example
tuberculosis (TB) /ˌtjuːbəkjʊˈləʊsɪs/	**Tuberculosis (TB)** is a lung disease spread through the air.
malaria /məˈleərɪə/	**Malaria** is spread by mosquito bites.
mosquito /məˈskiːtəʊ/	Only the female **mosquito** bites people and drinks blood.
West Nile / Zika /west naɪl ˈziːkə/	Mosquitoes spread **West Nile / Zika** viruses.
→ **vectors** /ˈvektəz/	Mosquitoes are **vectors**: they carry diseases between people.

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