

Weather and Climate #10 Vocabulary Terms and Key Concepts

(WC #10: I can describe the effect of human activities on the quality of water.)

pH – the measure of how acidic or basic a substance is.

Turbidity – a measure of the clarity of the water (how clear is it?)

☆ **Water Quality** – Is used to describe the health of a water system.



Aquifer – An underground rock layer that stores water and allows water to flow through it.

☆ **Watershed:** another word for river basin. It's an area of land that drains into a common body of water (creek, stream, river or lake)

☆ **Non-point source pollution** – pollution that comes from many places or sources that is not easily identified.

☆ **Point Source pollution** – pollution that can be traced to a specific source such as oil that spills from a pipeline

☆ **Pollutant** – any substance that can negatively affect an ecosystem.

Plastic- This can entangle and kill aquatic animals, and it does not decompose.



Wastewater – water that runs into drains that may contain sewage and chemicals from homes and businesses or pollutants from industry.

Storm Drains- These collect water from inside homes and businesses and carry it to treatments plants, where it is cleaned before it reaches streams and rivers.

Sewers- These collect water from inside homes and businesses and carry it to treatment plants, where it is cleaned before it reaches streams and rivers.

☆ **Working with Motors**- The problem with this everyday chore is that the oil, gasoline, antifreeze and other fluids contain chemicals that harm aquatic life. Some solutions to this problem would be cleaning up spills quickly and disposing of hazardous products properly.



☆ **Washing Cars**- This everyday chore poses a few problems. Soaps that are used can contain chemicals that are harmful to aquatic life, hoses use a lot of water and wastewater can run down the driveway into a storm drain. Using a bucket instead of a hose can help to save water and limit flow.

☆ **Fertilizing the Lawn/Farm Crops**- This chore can be harmful if too much fertilizer is used. It can cause disease, weeds, and poor root growth. Fertilizers and chemicals can also be washed down into nearby surface water sources or infiltrated into groundwater. We can use native plants that don't require fertilizers, test our soil to find out what nutrients the lawn needs, and apply fertilizer only when it is needed.



Deforestation- Is the clearing of forests or trees. This allows rain to rush directly into streams instead of being absorbed.

Walking the Dog- This chore can cause an excess of animal waste which is full of bacteria. Animal waste should be disposed of properly instead of left on the ground.



☆ **Integrated Pest Management-** Using this technique to control insect pests means focusing on the early identification of pests. Natural controls are introduced, such as predators that feed on pests or plants that are naturally resistant to pests.

☆ **Landfills-** a large, outdoor area for waste disposal; landfills where waste is exposed to the atmosphere are called open dumps which are currently against the law in the United States; in sanitary landfills, waste is layered, compacted and covered with soil.



☆ **Acid rain:** results from atmospheric moisture mixing with sulfur and nitrogen oxides emitted from the burning of fossil fuels; may cause damage to buildings, car finishes, crops, forests, and aquatic life.

