



High School Science Virtual Learning

**Environmental Science**

**Environmental Legislation (Pt 3)**

May 21, 2020



# High School Environmental Science

## Lesson: May 21, 2020

### **Objective/Learning Target:**

Students will identify the key purpose of specific legislation and how they affect environments in the long run.

1. What do you believe happened to the water in this picture?
2. What can the government do to help clean up after companies dump toxins into public spaces?



1. Student responses can vary, and might include:
  - a. Contaminated with chemicals
  - b. Always looked like this
  - c. A company dumped toxins nearby.
  - d. Etc.
  
2. The government has groups like the EPA to enforce restoration and compensation for the environment and health risks to humans.



## Lesson Activity:

**Directions:** You will be reading three articles as they cover National Environmental Policy Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability act. You will want to take notes as you explore to organize your thoughts. Here is an example of how:

Legislation	When was it enacted?	Causes for it to be made?	Controversy?	Explanation of law	Impacts since enacted?
National Environmental Policy Act					
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act					
Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act					

Link(s): [NEPA](#)

[RCRA](#)

[CERCLA](#)



# Practice

You will use the notes and NEPA article from the activity on slide 5 to answer the following questions.



# Practice Questions

1. When was NEPA originally passed?
2. What is are three things covered by NEPA?
3. What are the duties of the Council on Environmental Quality?
4. What are the roles of a federal agency in the NEPA process?
5. What are the responsibilities of a cooperating agency?



# Answer Key

Once you have completed the practice questions check with the work.

1. NEPA was signed into law on January 1, 1970.
2. Making decisions on permit applications, adopting federal land management actions, and constructing highways and other publicly-owned facilities.
3. Ensuring that Federal agencies meet their obligations under NEPA, overseeing federal agency implementation of the environmental impact assessment process, and issuing regulations and other guidance to Federal agencies regarding NEPA compliance.
4. The agency carrying out the federal action is responsible for complying with the requirements of NEPA, and there may be more than one federal agency involved.
5. Assist the lead agency by participating in the NEPA process at the earliest possible time, participate in the scoping process, develop information and prepare environmental analysis that the agency has special expertise in, and make staff support available.





# More Practice

You will use the notes and RCRA article from the activity on slide 5 to answer the following questions.



# More Practice Questions

1. What is the key aspect of the RCRA for the EPA?
2. What is included in the types of wastes?
3. What type of groups are supposed to comply with RCRA regulations?
4. What is under the subtitle of J under RCRA?
5. How much does the RCRA Program provide in grant funding?



# Answer Key

Once you have completed the practice questions check with the work.

1. Authority to control the generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste.
2. Solid waste includes solids, liquids and gases and must be discarded to be considered waste.
3. Hazardous waste generators, government agencies, small businesses, and gas stations with underground petroleum tanks.
4. Standards for the Tracking and Management of Medical Waste
5. Provides \$97.3million in grant funding to help states implement authorized hazardous waste programs



# Last Practice

You will use the notes and CERCLA article from the activity on slide 5 to answer the following questions.



# Last Practice Questions

1. When was the CERCLA originally passed?
2. Under the CERCLA, who was responsible for the cleanup costs for hazardous substances?
3. The major provisions of CERCLA's response authority are under what two general authorities?
4. What are the two basic ways to respond to a release?
5. What can citizens do under the CERCLA?



# Answer Key

Once you have completed the practice questions check with the work.

1. 1980, and amended in 1986 and 1996.
2. The liability for cleanup costs on arrangers and transporters of hazardous substances and on current and former owners of facilities where hazardous substances were disposed.
3. Enforcement, and Hazardous Substance Superfund
4. Removal or a remedial action.
5. CERCLA allows citizens to file a civil action against any person that is alleged to be in violation of any CERCLA standard, regulation, condition, requirement, order, or IAG. Citizens can also file a civil action against the President for alleged failure to perform any non-discretionary act or duty.



## Additional Practice

If you would like to explore what has improved through these three pieces of legislation you can check out these resources:

[What is the NEPA?](#)

[NEPA explained](#)

[CERCLA- What is it?](#)

[Do YOU Live Near a TOXIC Superfund Site?](#)