

Water Pollution



Water is a precious natural resource that must be protected and conserved for us and the future generations. Water is slowly being contaminated by the activities of humans

Explanation:

There are a number of sources from which water is being polluted:

- **SEWAGE:** this is the main pollutant. Raw sewage is filled with harmful microorganisms that can cause a number of diseases and can give water an unpleasant odour.
- **NUTRIENTS:** the most common nutrient pollutants are nitrates and phosphates. These can be found in fertilizers, detergents and even from sewage. These nutrients may cause an increase in algal growth resulting in algal bloom. When this happens the algae on the surface stops photosynthesis of other plants below and so the plants will die and the oxygen that the plants would have given off stops and so the animals that rely on the oxygen will eventually die. Oxygen is also removed by the decaying algal on the floor of the body of water. The water eventually becomes stagnant.
- **MERCURY:** this is mostly found in industrialized cities. It contaminates the water and is one of those products that build up in the food chain. This metal is a dangerous poison for animals. A large build up of mercury in the body will affect the nervous system and the brain, resulting in blindness, deafness and death.
- **OIL:** if an oil spill occurs these might be the result-
 - Oil may coat bird's feathers making it difficult to fly
 - Oil reduces the amount of oxygen available for plants and animals
- **INSECTICIDES** and **HERBICIDES:** these are chemicals that are used to kill weeds and insects, which may wash into rivers and seas and kill plants and animal life.