

# Nov. Grade 7 Unit 4G: Pollution

Content Area: **Science**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **November**  
Length: **1 Weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## Unit Overview

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It comes from many sources, and it's usually trash or harmful chemicals, but sometimes too much of a good thing can pollute. In this concept, you will learn about the sources of pollution as well as the harmful effects that pollution can have on the environment.

## Enduring Understandings

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### Lesson Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students should be able to:

- Classify components of an ecosystem as biotic or abiotic.
- Explain the causes and effects on the environment of different types of pollution.
- Relate the difficulty in tracking the sources and effects of pollution to its causes.
- Investigate how runoff from land creates water pollution.
- Explain methods that scientists use to monitor pollution in an ecosystem and why this is important.

## Essential Questions

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- **Overarching Questions**
  - How and why do organisms interact with their environment and what are the effects of these interactions?
  - How do Earth's surface processes and human activities affect each other?
- **Focus Questions**
  - How do organisms interact in groups so as to benefit individuals?
  - How do people model and predict the effects of human activities on Earth's climate?
- **Lesson Questions**
  - How can the parts of an ecosystem be classified?
  - How does pollution affect organism populations?
  - Why are the sources and effects of pollution difficult to track?

- How do scientists monitor populations for signs of pollution and why is this important?
- **Can You Explain?**
  - What methods do scientists use to monitor different sources of pollution and their environmental effects, and how do they model runoff from land that creates water pollution?

## **Instructional Strategies & Learning Activities**

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### **DISCOVERY TECHBOOK LESSONS:**

- [The Five E Instructional Model](#)

Science Techbook follows the 5E instructional model. As you plan your lesson, the provided Model Lesson includes strategies for each of the 5Es.

- [Engage \(45–90 minutes\)](#)

Students are presented with the story of DDT, its dangers, and subsequent regulation. Students begin to formulate ideas around the Can You Explain? (CYE) question.

- [Explore \(90 minutes\)](#)

Students investigate questions about how an ecosystem is affected by pollution by using evidence from text and media assets. Students complete an Exploration and examine the effects that a single source of pollution can have throughout an ecosystem.

- [Explain \(45–90 minutes\)](#)

Students construct scientific explanations to the CYE question by including examples of how scientists monitor different sources of pollution, their environmental effects, and how these pollutants travel through the local environment.

- [Elaborate with STEM \(45–135 minutes\)](#)

Students apply their understanding of pollution as they learn about using statistics to protect consumers, research approaches for cleaning up oil spills, and examine the effects of light pollution.

- [Evaluate \(45–90 minutes\)](#)

Students are evaluated on the state science standards, as well as Standards in ELA/Literacy and Standards in Math standards, using Board Builder and the provided concept summative assessments.

## Integration of Career Readiness, Life Literacies and Key Skills

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WRK.9.2.8.CAP.1	Identify offerings such as high school and county career and technical school courses, apprenticeships, military programs, and dual enrollment courses that support career or occupational areas of interest.
WRK.9.2.8.CAP.2	Develop a plan that includes information about career areas of interest.
WRK.9.2.8.CAP.3	Explain how career choices, educational choices, skills, economic conditions, and personal behavior affect income.
WRK.9.2.8.CAP.4	Explain how an individual's online behavior (e.g., social networking, photo exchanges, video postings) may impact opportunities for employment or advancement.
TECH.9.4.8.CI.1	Assess data gathered on varying perspectives on causes of climate change (e.g., cross-cultural, gender-specific, generational), and determine how the data can best be used to design multiple potential solutions (e.g., RI.7.9, 6.SP.B.5, 7.1.NH.IPERS.6, 8.2.8.ETW.4).
TECH.9.4.8.CI.3	Examine challenges that may exist in the adoption of new ideas (e.g., 2.1.8.SSH, 6.1.8.CivicsPD.2).
TECH.9.4.8.CI.4	Explore the role of creativity and innovation in career pathways and industries.
TECH.9.4.8.CT.1	Evaluate diverse solutions proposed by a variety of individuals, organizations, and/or agencies to a local or global problem, such as climate change, and use critical thinking skills to predict which one(s) are likely to be effective (e.g., MS-ETS1-2).
TECH.9.4.8.CT.2	Develop multiple solutions to a problem and evaluate short- and long-term effects to determine the most plausible option (e.g., MS-ETS1-4, 6.1.8.CivicsDP.1).
TECH.9.4.8.CT.3	Compare past problem-solving solutions to local, national, or global issues and analyze the factors that led to a positive or negative outcome.
TECH.9.4.8.TL.2	Gather data and digitally represent information to communicate a real-world problem (e.g., MS-ESS3-4, 6.1.8.EconET.1, 6.1.8.CivicsPR.4).
TECH.9.4.8.TL.3	Select appropriate tools to organize and present information digitally.
TECH.9.4.8.TL.4	Synthesize and publish information about a local or global issue or event (e.g., MSLS4-5, 6.1.8.CivicsPI.3).
TECH.9.4.8.GCA.1	Model how to navigate cultural differences with sensitivity and respect (e.g., 1.5.8.C1a).
TECH.9.4.8.GCA.2	Demonstrate openness to diverse ideas and perspectives through active discussions to achieve a group goal.
TECH.9.4.8.IML.4	Ask insightful questions to organize different types of data and create meaningful visualizations.
TECH.9.4.8.IML.5	Analyze and interpret local or public data sets to summarize and effectively communicate the data.
TECH.9.4.8.IML.8	Apply deliberate and thoughtful search strategies to access high-quality information on climate change (e.g., 1.1.8.C1b).
TECH.9.4.8.IML.9	Distinguish between ethical and unethical uses of information and media (e.g., 1.5.8.CR3b, 8.2.8.EC.2).
TECH.9.4.8.IML.12	Use relevant tools to produce, publish, and deliver information supported with evidence for an authentic audience.
TECH.9.4.8.IML.14	Analyze the role of media in delivering cultural, political, and other societal messages.  An essential aspect of problem solving is being able to self-reflect on why possible solutions for solving problems were or were not successful.  Multiple solutions often exist to solve a problem.

## Technology And Design Integration

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CS.6-8.8.1.8.AP.6	Refine a solution that meets users' needs by incorporating feedback from team members and users.
CS.6-8.8.1.8.CS.4	Systematically apply troubleshooting strategies to identify and resolve hardware and software problems in computing systems.
CS.6-8.8.1.8.DA.1	Organize and transform data collected using computational tools to make it usable for a specific purpose.
CS.6-8.8.2.8.ED.1	Evaluate the function, value, and aesthetics of a technological product or system, from the perspective of the user and the producer.
CS.6-8.8.2.8.ED.2	Identify the steps in the design process that could be used to solve a problem.
CS.6-8.8.2.8.ED.3	Develop a proposal for a solution to a real-world problem that includes a model (e.g., physical prototype, graphical/technical sketch).
CS.6-8.8.2.8.ED.7	Design a product to address a real-world problem and document the iterative design process, including decisions made as a result of specific constraints and trade-offs (e.g., annotated sketches).
CS.6-8.8.2.8.ETW.1	Illustrate how a product is upcycled into a new product and analyze the short- and long-term benefits and costs.
CS.6-8.8.2.8.ETW.2	Analyze the impact of modifying resources in a product or system (e.g., materials, energy, information, time, tools, people, capital).
CS.6-8.8.2.8.ETW.3	Analyze the design of a product that negatively impacts the environment or society and develop possible solutions to lessen its impact.
CS.6-8.8.2.8.ETW.4	Compare the environmental effects of two alternative technologies devised to address climate change issues and use data to justify which choice is best.  Resources need to be utilized wisely to have positive effects on the environment and society. Some technological decisions involve trade-offs between environmental and economic needs, while others have positive effects for both the economy and environment.

## Interdisciplinary Connections

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MA.6.RP.A.1	Understand the concept of a ratio and use ratio language to describe a ratio relationship between two quantities.
MA.6.RP.A.2	Understand the concept of a unit rate $a/b$ associated with a ratio $a:b$ with $b \neq 0$ , and use rate language in the context of a ratio relationship.
LA.RST.6-8.1	Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts.
LA.RST.6-8.2	Determine the central ideas or conclusions of a text; provide an accurate summary of the text distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.
LA.RST.6-8.3	Follow precisely a multistep procedure when carrying out experiments, taking measurements, or performing technical tasks.
LA.RST.6-8.4	Determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and other domain-specific words and phrases as they are used in a specific scientific or technical context relevant to grades 6-8 texts and topics.
LA.RST.6-8.5	Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole and to an understanding of the topic.
LA.RST.6-8.6	Analyze the author's purpose in providing an explanation, describing a procedure, or discussing an experiment in a text.

LA.RST.6-8.7	Integrate quantitative or technical information expressed in words in a text with a version of that information expressed visually (e.g., in a flowchart, diagram, model, graph, or table).
LA.RST.6-8.8	Distinguish among facts, reasoned judgment based on research findings, and speculation in a text.
LA.RST.6-8.9	Compare and contrast the information gained from experiments, simulations, video, or multimedia sources with that gained from reading a text on the same topic.
LA.RST.6-8.10	By the end of grade 8, read and comprehend science/technical texts in the grades 6-8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.
LA.WHST.6-8.1	Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.
MA.7.EE.B	Solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations.
LA.WHST.6-8.2	Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/experiments, or technical processes.
LA.WHST.6-8.4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, voice, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
LA.WHST.6-8.5	With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed.
LA.WHST.6-8.6	Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and present the relationships between information and ideas clearly and efficiently.
MA.6.EE.A.4	Identify when two expressions are equivalent (i.e., when the two expressions name the same number regardless of which value is substituted into them).
LA.WHST.6-8.7	Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.
LA.WHST.6-8.8	Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.
LA.WHST.6-8.9	Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
MA.6.EE.B.6	Use variables to represent numbers and write expressions when solving a real-world or mathematical problem; understand that a variable can represent an unknown number, or, depending on the purpose at hand, any number in a specified set.

## Differentiation

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### Struggling Students

- Using a two-column chart, ask students to compare and contrast two different examples of pollution.

### ELL

- Assist students in identifying familiar prefixes and/or words within words for each glossary term (e.g. niche is from the Latin word nicher, which means “to create a nest”).
- Encourage students to demonstrate their understanding by drawing concepts. For example, they can create their own models of runoff pollution or a model that shows how

### Accelerated Students

- Using their previous knowledge of human activities, ask students some causes of pollution.
- Using their previous knowledge of the roles of scientists, ask students to monitor the ways ecologists watch populations for signs of

mercury moves up the food chain.

pollution

[Differentiation in science](#) can be accomplished in several ways. Once you have given a pre-test to students, you know what information has already been mastered and what they still need to work on. Next, you design activities, discussions, lectures, and so on to teach information to students. The best way is to have two or three groups of students divided by ability level.

While you are instructing one group, the other groups are working on activities to further their knowledge of the concepts. For example, while you are helping one group learn the planet names in order, another group is researching climate, size, and distance from the moon of each planet. Then the groups switch, and you instruct the second group on another objective from the space unit. The first group practices writing the order of the planets and drawing a diagram of them.

Here are some ideas for the classroom when you are using differentiation in science:

- Create a tic-tac-toe board that lists different activities at different ability levels. When students aren't involved in direct instruction with you, they can work on activities from their tic-tac-toe board. These boards have nine squares, like a tic-tac-toe board; and each square lists an activity that corresponds with the science unit. For example, one solar system activity for advanced science students might be to create a power point presentation about eclipses. For beginning students, an activity might be to make a poster for one of the planets and include important data such as size, order from the sun, whether it has moons, and so on.
- Find websites on the current science unit that students can explore on their own.
- Allow students to work in small groups to create a project throughout the entire unit. For example, one group might create a solar system model to scale. Another group might write a play about the solar system. This is an activity these groups can work on while they are not working directly with you.

Differentiation in science gets students excited to learn because it challenges them to expand their knowledge and skills, instead of teaching the whole group concepts they have already mastered.

## **Modifications & Accommodations**

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Refer to QSAC EXCEL SMALL SPED ACCOMMODATIONS spreadsheet in this discipline.

### **Modifications and Accommodations used in this unit:**

In addition to differentiated instruction, IEP's and 504 accommodations will be utilized.

## **Benchmark Assessments**

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**Benchmark Assessments** are given periodically (e.g., at the end of every quarter or as frequently as once per month) throughout a school year to establish baseline achievement data and measure progress toward a standard or set of academic standards and goals.

### **Schoolwide Benchmark assessments:**

Aimsweb benchmarks 3X a year

Linkit Benchmarks 3X a year

### **Additional Benchmarks used in this unit:**

## **Formative Assessments**

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Assessment allows both instructor and student to monitor progress towards achieving learning objectives, and can be approached in a variety of ways. **Formative assessment** refers to tools that identify misconceptions, struggles, and learning gaps along the way and assess how to close those gaps. It includes effective tools for helping to shape learning, and can even bolster students' abilities to take ownership of their learning when they understand that the goal is to improve learning, not apply final marks (Trumbull and Lash, 2013). It can include students assessing themselves, peers, or even the instructor, through writing, quizzes, conversation, and more. In short, formative assessment occurs throughout a class or course, and seeks to improve student achievement of learning objectives through approaches that can support specific student needs (Theal and Franklin, 2010, p. 151).

### **Formative Assessments used in this unit:**

Formative assessments as listed in unit.

See assessments located in the unit link above

## **Summative Assessments**

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**Summative assessments** evaluate student learning, knowledge, proficiency, or success at the conclusion of an instructional period, like a unit, course, or program. Summative assessments are almost always formally graded and often heavily weighted (though they do not need to be). Summative assessment can be used to great effect in conjunction and alignment with formative assessment, and instructors can consider a variety of

ways to combine these approaches.

### **Summative assessments for this unit:**

Summative assessments as listed in unit.

See assessments located in the unit link above

## **Instructional Materials**

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See materials located in Unit above.

Discovery Techbook

Teacher made materials

Additional labs available through NJCTL on line curriculum

## **Standards**

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SCI.MS-ESS3

Earth and Human Activity

SCI.MS-ESS3-3

Apply scientific principles to design a method for monitoring and minimizing a human impact on the environment.

Examples of the design process include examining human environmental impacts, assessing the kinds of solutions that are feasible, and designing and evaluating solutions that could reduce that impact. Examples of human impacts can include water usage (such as the withdrawal of water from streams and aquifers or the construction of dams and levees), land usage (such as urban development, agriculture, or the removal of wetlands), and pollution (such as of the air, water, or land).

SCI.MS-ESS3-5

Ask questions to clarify evidence of the factors that have caused climate change over the past century.

Examples of factors include human activities (such as fossil fuel combustion, cement production, and agricultural activity) and natural processes (such as changes in incoming solar radiation or volcanic activity). Examples of evidence can include tables, graphs, and maps of global and regional temperatures, atmospheric levels of gases such as carbon dioxide and methane, and the rates of human activities. Emphasis is on the major role that human activities play in causing the rise in global temperatures.

Human activities, such as the release of greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels, are major factors in the current rise in Earth's mean surface temperature (global warming).



Reducing the level of climate change and reducing human vulnerability to whatever climate changes do occur depend on the understanding of climate science, engineering capabilities, and other kinds of knowledge, such as understanding of human behavior and on applying that knowledge wisely in decisions and activities.