

 **Subject: Social Studies**

 **Class: JSS1**

 **Term: First Term**

 **Week 5**

 **Topic: Environmental Problems – Causes, Effects, and Solutions**

Lesson Objectives

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

1. Define environmental problems.
 2. Identify various types of environmental problems.
 3. Explain the causes and effects of environmental problems.
 4. Suggest solutions to environmental problems.
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I. Meaning of Environmental Problems

Environmental problems are harmful changes to our surroundings caused by natural events or human activities. These problems make the environment unhealthy for humans, animals, and plants.

II. Types of Environmental Problems

1. **Air Pollution** – Dirtying the air with smoke, gases, and dust.
2. **Water Pollution** – Contaminating rivers, lakes, and oceans with waste.
3. **Soil Pollution** – Dumping harmful waste on land.
4. **Deforestation** – Cutting down too many trees without replacing them.
5. **Desertification** – When fertile land becomes dry and useless.
6. **Erosion** – When soil is washed away by rain or wind.
7. **Waste Disposal** – Poor management of refuse and sewage.

8. **Noise Pollution** – Excessive loud noise from machines, music, traffic, etc.
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III. Causes of Environmental Problems

- Improper dumping of refuse and sewage
 - Burning of fossil fuels (oil, coal, petrol)
 - Industrial and factory activities
 - Deforestation (cutting trees without planting)
 - Overgrazing and poor farming practices
 - Oil spillage and chemical waste
 - Use of loudspeakers, generators, and engines
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IV. Effects of Environmental Problems

- Breathing problems and diseases (from air pollution)
 - Dirty and unsafe water (from water pollution)
 - Infertile soil and poor crop production
 - Flooding and land degradation
 - Global warming and climate change
 - Loss of wildlife and forest resources
 - Dirty and smelly surroundings
 - Poor quality of life and spread of infections
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V. Solutions to Environmental Problems

- Proper waste disposal and recycling
- Planting of trees (afforestation)
- Reducing smoke and fumes from factories
- Creating public awareness and education

- Enforcing environmental protection laws
- Using eco-friendly (green) materials
- Encouraging clean energy use (e.g., solar)
- Government and community cooperation