

Light Pollution Reading Worksheet

Instructions: Read the following passage about the phenomena of light pollution and its implications on an ecosystem. Then answer the questions on the information.

Light pollution is an environmental issue characterized by excessive or misdirected artificial light that disrupts the natural darkness of the night sky and affects the environment, human health, and wildlife. In this essay, we will explore what light pollution is, its sources, impacts, and strategies for mitigation and prevention.

Light pollution refers to the presence of artificial light that interferes with the natural darkness of the night. This can include skyglow (the brightening of the night sky over populated areas), light trespass (unwanted or excessive artificial light spilling into areas where it's not needed), and glare (excessive brightness that causes visual discomfort).

Common sources of light pollution include street lighting, illuminated buildings, billboards, and outdoor sports facilities. There are different types of light pollution, including over-illumination (excessive use of artificial lighting), clutter (excessive and confusing light sources), and skyglow (the brightening of the night sky due to artificial lighting).

Light pollution has several negative impacts. It disrupts natural ecosystems and wildlife behavior, affecting animals such as birds, insects, and sea turtles. Human health can be affected, with issues like disrupted sleep patterns and increased risk of certain diseases. Light pollution also



limits our ability to observe and study the night sky, diminishing the cultural and scientific value of astronomy.

Mitigation strategies for light pollution include the use of energy-efficient lighting, outdoor lighting ordinances, and responsible lighting design that minimizes glare and light spill. Public awareness and community involvement are essential to reducing light pollution and preserving the natural beauty of the night sky.

Question:

1. What is light pollution, and how does it affect the natural darkness of the night sky?

2. Can you describe the different types of light pollution, such as skyglow, light trespass, and glare?

3. What are some common sources of light pollution in urban and suburban environments?

4. How does light pollution affect natural ecosystems and wildlife behavior?

5. What are the potential health impacts of light pollution on human well-being?

6. How does light pollution hinder our ability to observe the night sky and engage in astronomy?

7. What strategies and practices can help mitigate light pollution?

8. How can outdoor lighting ordinances and responsible lighting design reduce light pollution?

9. Why is public awareness and community involvement crucial for addressing light pollution?

10. In your view, what is the most effective strategy for reducing light pollution and preserving the natural darkness of the night sky?