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Exercise

1. What are the different ways in which water gets contaminated?

Answer:

Water gets contaminated by the addition of:

- Agricultural chemicals: Farmers use excessive amounts of pesticides and fertilizers to increase crop production. These chemicals get carried away to the water bodies due to rains and floods which lead to water pollution.
- Industrial wastes: Industries release harmful chemical wastes into water sources, thereby polluting them.
- Sewage wastes: Waste materials from kitchens, toilets, and laundry sources are also responsible for contaminating water.

2. At an individual level, how can you help reduce air pollution?

Answer:

An individual can reduce air pollution by:

1. Avoiding the use of cars as much as possible and by using public transport whenever possible.
2. By not using vehicles for short distances.
3. By using clean fuels such as LPG and CNG instead of diesel and petrol.
4. Always disposing the garbage properly and not burning it.
5. Controlling the emissions from vehicles and household chimneys.

3. Clear, transparent water is always fit for drinking. Comment.

Answer:

Clear and transparent water is not always fit for drinking. Water might appear clean, but it may contain some disease causing micro-organisms and other dissolved impurities. Hence, it is advised to purify water before drinking. Purification can be done by water purifying systems or by boiling the water.

4. You are a member of the municipal body of your town.

Make a list of measures that would help your town to ensure the supply of clean water to all its residents.

Answer:

To ensure the supply of clean water to all residents the following steps must be taken:

1. Leakages in pipelines of water should be repaired.
2. The main water source must be built in clean surroundings and should be maintained properly.
3. Open defecation in water resources by slum dwellers should be strictly prohibited.
4. Chemical methods such as chlorination must be used for purifying water.

5. Explain the differences between pure air and polluted air.

Answer:

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| Pure Air | Polluted air |
| Pure air contains around 78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen, and 0.03% carbon dioxide also small amounts of argon, methane, ozone, and water vapours. | Polluted air includes gases like sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon dioxide, etc. and other particulate matter. |
| Smog is not present. | Smog can be present. |
| Not harmful for human beings | Harmful for human beings as cause diseases like asthma |

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