

Water Pollution

By: Lois

Introduction:

Envision yourself running in the park and becoming thirsty. You reach for your water bottle and hold it up to the sun's light to look at. Before you drink it, you see that your water is very dirty. Now, you wonder why. As you walk, wondering, you see a water fountain nearby and throw the dirty water in the fountain's drainer. As you walk away, the water you threw in the fountain drainer falls all the way to the waste treatment plants that recycle water. That's one way to clean water before it gets to the other bodies of water. However, since there is no solid waste and it's dirty water itself, it may go right through the waste treatment and into the waters as unclean water.

Water pollution is one of the issues that affect many animals and people. Sometimes people just don't care about this issue and they do careless things with water. Some people constantly run water in the sink when they take a shower or brush their teeth. People also throw away unwanted stuff in the ocean, when they can't find a garbage bin in the beach. Those are some examples of how people pollute water.

This problem applies for both people and animals. Over 1 million seabirds and sea mammals die because of pollution each year. When they die, their population decreases in number. In addition, 5,000 people die each year as a result of dirty drinking water. Water pollution happens daily all over the world. In the U.S.A, 1.2 trillion gallons of untreated water are dumped into U.S. waters. We need to reduce this amount of litter so America's waters could be cleaner. In other places of the world, people waste 2,746 pounds of food and litter, which is all dumped in the water. If this keeps going, our world will be in danger of losing too much fresh water.

Explain Issue:

The problem here is that people all over the world continue to pollute or waste our water and therefore, making our water unable to be used. For

example, if people ever throw away plastic or other wastes while on the beaches, they are harming the sea animals as they have the possibility to get caught in it. If they get caught, they are unable to go up for air and also, they have the possibility of getting injured. In addition, people who spray pesticides into their farming land are also polluting the water because there's water underground. It's called groundwater. The stuff that people spray on their farms goes underground, since it mixes with water that comes from above. Finally, oil that comes from different locations is sent to other places. This is called trading. People send it by ship and the oilrig in the ship has the possibility of exploding. If it explodes, the oil will spill in the ocean, killing several thousand sea animals and people. This is called oil spillage. This shows how many types of water pollution can affect people and animals in many different ways.

Current Events:

The issue of water pollution affects people locally and globally. For instance, in the United States, people throw away 2,746 pounds of food and litter into its oceans and rivers yearly. Also, in the various parts of the world, people cannot get access to clean, fresh drinking water. Some of the bodies of water are dirty and polluted. If people drink this contaminated water, people might get horrible sicknesses.

People are saying many different things about the issue. Some people are saying that they are against it or that polluting water is a scary thing to do. They are also abusing the issue by industrialization. For example, people are saying this because the natural resources are being destroyed and their lives are at risk. If the water they drink is contaminated with chemicals and bacteria, they have the possibility of dying. Further, industry is the greatest source of pollution. 370,000 manufacturing facilities use big amounts of freshwater to carry away trash of many kinds. This shows how people have the ability to choose if they want to pollute or help the water.

One of the events that is currently happening with water pollution is that there are too many chemical oil spills in the world's water locally. One of them is from West Virginia. Residents of the 9 counties in West Virginia reported to

their officials that they smelled a strong licorice odor. As a result, they tracked it down to the Freedom Industries. This was caused from one of their products, which had leaked from a contaminant area and into the Elk River. Therefore, they had to shut down schools; restaurants, businesses and grocery stores were sold out of water because people wanted to access whatever clean water they could get their hands on. This still affects many people because they have no fresh drinking water. Their governor had warned the people of using the contaminated water because they aren't sure if it's safe or not. These people are unable to drink water unless the government officials say that it is safe to drink. As a result, people have to conserve their water by any means necessary.

People are angry in this current situation because they don't know what to do without fresh, clean water. They can't do the stuff they mostly do without it. People are now currently working hard to get the clean water they need. People are saying that it's the industries' fault because they spilled the chemicals in the water. Also, they had to go without water because of them. Therefore, there are hardships that come with, or without polluted water.

Methods of Change:

There are many organizations that help the issue of water pollution. Two of these organizations are The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and The Water Environment Federation (WEF). The USEPA is an organization that addresses this issue locally. They do many things to help with the issue of water pollution. For example, they provide scientific guidance and resources that can help to form water quality principles for nitrogen and phosphorus. Further, they work with the states to determine which water has nitrogen or phosphorus pollution. Nitrogen and Phosphorus are elements from the Periodic Table (Nitrogen is an odorless and colorless gas while; Phosphorus is a poisonous and combustible non-metal). Finally, they help to reduce hypoxia (lack of oxygen reaching the body's tissues) by working with its state and federal peers.

Another organization is The WEF. This organization's goal is to keep improving water quality around the globe. They do this by creating 3 goals.

These goals are creating awareness in the value of water, giving the latest education to water quality professionals and, producing ways to make a good change. These are goals that could be achieved that could help with the problem of water pollution. They are now currently doing a lot of things that could get them a step closer to their goals.

Kids that are in grades 5 – 8 can do many things to help. One of the things that the middle school kids are doing is that they don't throw any waste in any body of water. They don't do this because this is polluting the water. This means that if the water is polluted, it is not clean anymore and it is now contaminated. This would affect sea animals and humans because all the sea animals would have no clean water to breathe in and the people would have the ability to attract all kinds of sicknesses, illnesses and diseases.

Call for Action:

Are you interested in helping this issue? Do you want to take action? If you do, here are some organizations and projects that you can participate in:

Organizations or Projects	What They Do and How You Can Help	Contact Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Water Quality Program	What They Do: They protect and restore Washington's waters. You Can Help: Join and participate in their 5 activities.	Receptionist: (360)-407-6600 Public Info (Sandy Howard): (360)-407-6408 E-mail: sandy.howard@ecy.wa.gov Web Address: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/wqhome.html

○ Freshwater Society	<p>What They Do: To protect, conserve and restore all freshwater resources.</p> <p>You Can Help: By considering of becoming a member of their project.</p>	<p>Phone: (952) 471-9773 (763) 219-1251</p> <p>E-mail: freshwater@freshwater.org</p> <p>Web Address: http://freshwater.org/</p>
○ Water Corporation	<p>What They Do: They are the supplier for water, wastewater and drainages in Western Australia.</p> <p>You Can Help: Join the organization and find a job there.</p>	<p>Head Office Reception: (08) 9420 2420</p> <p>International Customers: +61 8 9423 7777</p> <p>Web Address: http://www.watercorporation.com.au/</p>
○ Water To Thrive	<p>What They Do: They help people in the poorest countries and to connect the helping donors to other communities.</p> <p>You Can Help: By spreading the word, starting a campaign, donating or becoming a Water To Thrive ambassador.</p>	<p>Phone: (512) 206 4495</p> <p>E-mail: team@watertothrive.org</p> <p>Web Address: http://watertothrive.org/</p>
○ WEF	<p>What They Do: Finding ways to reach their 3 goals.</p> <p>You Can Help: Become a member and get involved.</p>	<p>Phone: Available at 8:30 – 5:00pm Eastern 1-800-666-0206 1-571-830-1545</p> <p>E-mail: csc@wef.org</p> <p>Web Address: http://www.wef.org/</p>

If you aren't interested in participating in any organization or project, there are always other ways to help. For example, you can throw out your trash in the correct place so this enables the water or ground to have less waste. In addition, don't throw any chemicals, oils, paints, and medicines down the sink drain or the toilet. Doing this can cause sewer blockages and the sewage water would escalate. Also, this can also damage your home and the wastewater system. Finally, you can choose to start your own project! One more project will help more people all over the world. These are just some examples. But, you can make the decision if you want to participate or not.

Conclusion:

Water pollution is something that we, people, do to our waters and it's not something that we should be proud of. This report tells you that water pollution is something that we should put our attention to because all are affected by it. We should put all our efforts in so that we can find a solution. We have a solution, but it costs billions of dollars to clean up the water. People are too interested in space exploration and they don't care about what is going on, here on Earth. This proves that if we work together we can stop water pollution. We can start with small steps and become a bigger community to help and make a difference.

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