

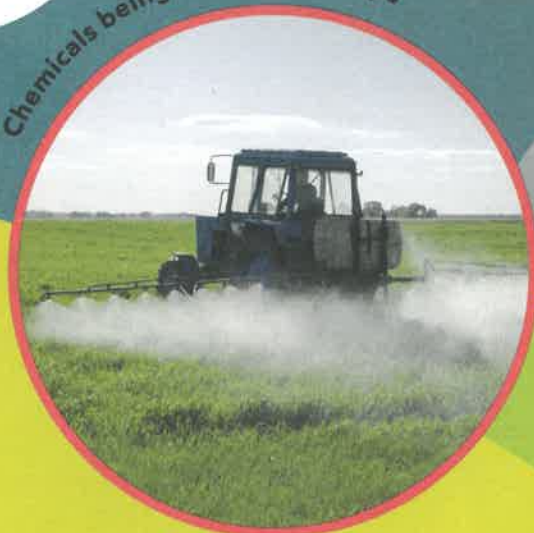
Pollution

Pollution is when something harmful gets into the environment and hurts animals, plants, and people. It can come from surprising places. Some types of pollution, such as oil in the water, are easy to see, while other types are completely invisible.

Soil pollution

Lots of farmers use chemicals to help their crops grow and to kill insects. These build up in the soil and make it poisonous. When it rains, the toxic chemicals get washed away from the soil and end up in local rivers, lakes, and seas.

Chemicals being sprayed on crops



Air pollution

Cars, factories, farms, and landfills all create toxic gases. These can spread for hundreds of miles through the air we breathe. Air pollutants are bad for our lungs, causing problems such as asthma.

People drive more than
269 million
motor vehicles in the USA.

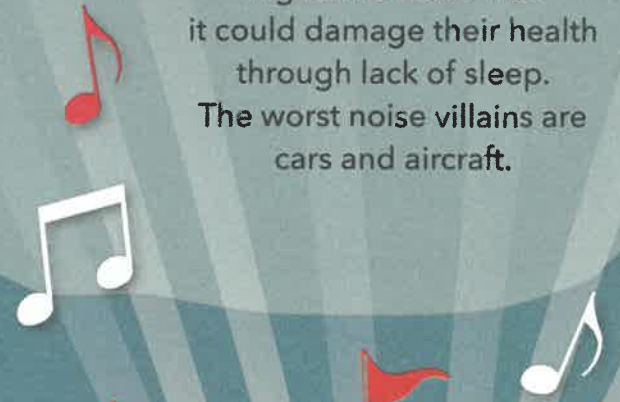


250,000
birds were killed in an oil spill from the Exxon Valdez oil tanker in 1989.



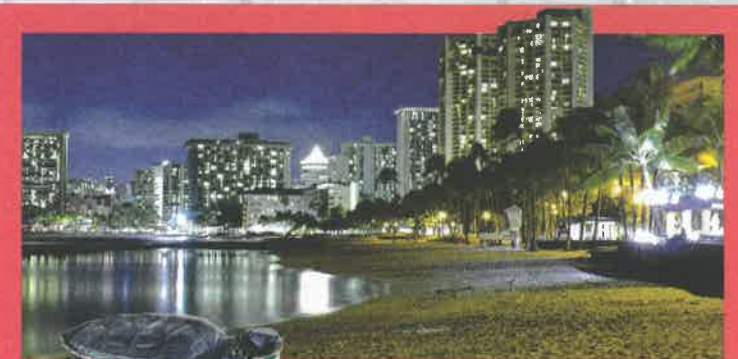
Noise pollution

Loud noise is stressful enough to make us ill. One in five people in Europe can hear so much nighttime noise that it could damage their health through lack of sleep. The worst noise villains are cars and aircraft.



Water pollution

Oil is a major cause of water pollution. It drips from boat engines, or spills when ships or pipes full of oil are damaged. It sticks to the fur and feathers of sea creatures, which then clump together and stop being waterproof. Animals can be poisoned when they try to get the oil off with their tongue or beak.



Light pollution

The night sky above towns and cities often glows with light. This can be deadly to newly hatched turtles. They mistake the lights for the moon's reflection on water and wander inland instead of out to sea.