

# Main Types of Pollution

**Environment:** All the living and nonliving things around you.

**Pollution:** Dirty or harmful substances in the environment.

**Fossil Fuels:** The oil, coal and natural gas that are used to provide energy.

## Air Pollution

- **(1) Acid Rain:** Rain that is more acidic than normal rain.
  - Certain chemicals from gases, such as sulfur dioxides and nitrogen oxides, mix in the air to create a harmful chemical.
  - Acid Rain can harm plants and forests, contaminate water, and even eat away at rock and stone over time.
- **(2) Smog:** A yellow-brown haze ( ) that forms when sunlight reacts with air pollution.
  - Happens closer to the ground level when ozone mixes with other bad gases.
  - A person with bronchitis, asthma or emphysema may have a very hard time breathing when smog is in the air.
  - Cities issue a smog warning when there is too much in the air.
- **(3) Ozone Layer Damage:** Damage to the Ozone Layer caused by aerosol cans, refrigerators, air conditioners, and emissions from automobiles
  - Ozone: A gas made of three oxygen atoms.
  - Ozone Layer: A shield above the earth's surface that protects living things from ultraviolet (UV) radiation.
- **(4) Global Warming:** A rise in Earth's temperatures.
  - The Greenhouse Effect: Trapping of heat by carbon dioxide and other gases in the air.
    - This effect warms up the Earth
  - Carbon dioxide and other gases from burning fossil fuels increase the Greenhouse Effect

## (5) Water Pollution

- 40% of the Nation's rivers, lakes, streams, and coastal areas are too polluted to use for swimming, fishing, or drinking.
- Sewage: (One type of pollution) Human waste, garbage, detergents, and other household wastes washed down drains and toilets.
- Chemicals, agriculture and oil spills all can cause water pollution.