

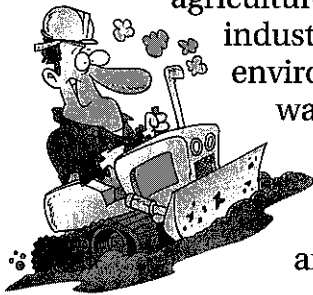
CHAPTER 3

PEOPLE & THE ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Impact

People **modify** (change) their physical environments for economic gain and to improve human life. We cultivate the fields for food and tame animals as livestock. We mine the earth for minerals, fell timber to build homes, and build dams to control the flow of water. Wherever people live, they change the environment around them!

However, many human activities such as agriculture, manufacturing, and industry negatively impact the environment. People often waste natural resources, disrupt plant and animal habitats, and pollute the land, water, and air.



We Do What!?

A few of the ways we modify our physical environments include:

- clearing land for agriculture
- domesticating wild plants and animals
- constructing buildings, offices, and homes
- constructing roads, railroads, and other systems of transportation
- taking natural resources from the environment (mining, logging, fishing, etc.)
- using natural resources to make products
- changing water flow by building dams, dikes, irrigation, and canals

For example, commercial fishing has both positive and negative consequences.

The **positive consequences** of commercial fishing include:

- ⇒ Fish are an important source of food for many nations.
- ⇒ Fish can be sold for profit or traded for other goods.
- ⇒ Fishing industries employ many people, from fishermen to grocers to the factory workers who process and package it.

The **negative consequences** of commercial fishing include:

- ⇒ Overfishing can cause a sharp decrease in fish populations.
- ⇒ Fishing boats often pollute the oceans and rivers.
- ⇒ Fishing industries often damage or destroy marine plant and animal life and disrupt ocean ecosystems.



Quick Review

L6-8RH2; L6-8RH4

Circle the correct word to complete each sentence.

1. Wherever people live they modify the environment. Modify means to **change / destroy**.
2. The desired results of human activities are **positive / negative** consequences.
3. The unexpected or undesirable results of human activities are **positive / negative** consequences.



Inference

L6-8RH2; L6-8RH8

For each human activity, list at least one positive and one negative consequence.

Human Activity	Positive Consequence	Negative Consequence
New housing construction		
Building a dam		
Drilling for Oil		



Problem-Solution

L6-8RH5; L6-8RH8

Circle ONE of the environmental issues listed. Make a list of human activities that cause the issue. Then list a few ways people could possibly help solve the issue.

Causes

Problem

- ➡ Air pollution
- ➡ Polluted rivers & lakes
- ➡ Deforestation
- ➡ Destruction of plant and animal habitats

Possible Solutions
