

Pre-Intermediate 1
Unit 2 Reading
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Conserving the World's Natural Resources

conserve = keep; save

natural resources = important and valuable things in nature that humans can use such as petroleum, water, trees, plants, etc.

➤ *Iran is rich in natural resources.*

In the decade of the 1970s, the United Nations organized several important meetings on the human environment to study a very serious problem. We humans are destroying the world around us. We are using up all of our natural resources. We must learn to conserve them, or life will be very bad for our children and our grandchildren. There are several major parts to this problem.

decade = a period of 10 years

1970s = from the beginning of 1970 until the end of 1979

the United Nations = the UN = an international organization that was established in 1945 and aims to solve world problems in a peaceful way

organize = arrange; plan

on = about

to = in order to = so as to

to study a very serious problem = **in order to** study a very serious problem

destroy = damage completely; ruin; demolish

use up = use something completely until nothing is left

The Serious Problem => Humans are destroying the environment and using up natural resources.

major = main

major ≠ minor

1. **Population.** Most problems of the environment come from population growth. In 1700 there were 625 million people in the world. In 1900 there were 1.6 billion, in 1950 2.5 billion, in 1980 4.4 billion, and in the year 2000 about 6 billion. More people need more water, more food, more wood, and more petroleum.

population = the number of people living in a particular area

growth = increase

1700 = seventeen hundred

1900 = nineteen hundred

1950 = nineteen fifty

1980 = nineteen eighty

2000 = two thousand

1,000,000 = 10^6 = 1 million

1,000,000,000 = 10^9 = 1 billion

1,000,000,000,000 = 10^{12} = 1 trillion

petroleum = raw oil

2. **Distribution.** Scientists say there is enough water in the world for everyone, but some countries have a lot of water and some have only a little. Some areas get all their rain during one season, and the rest of the year is dry.

distribution = dividing something among people

area = region

the rest = the other part(s)

dry ≠ wet, rainy

3. **Petroleum.** We are using up the world's petroleum. We use it in our cars and to heat our buildings in winter. Farmers may use petrochemicals to make the soil rich. They may use them to kill insects that eat plants. These chemicals go into rivers and lakes and kill the fish there. Thousands of people also die from these chemicals every year. Chemicals also go into the air and pollute it. Winds carry this polluted air to other countries and other continents.

heat _(verb) ≠ cool

heat _(verb) = make something warmer

heat _(noun) = the heating system

➤ *Please turn down the heat.*

petrochemicals = chemical products that we get from petroleum

make the soil rich = fertilize the soil

fertilize _(verb) = make (soil or land) more fertile or productive by adding suitable substances to it

fertilizer _(noun) = a substance that makes the soil rich => *Farmers use petrochemical fertilizers.*

insecticide = a petrochemical product that kills insects

pollute _(verb) = contaminate = to make air, water, or earth dirty or harmful

polluted _(adjective) = contaminated

pollution _(noun) = contamination

We now have the information and the ability to solve these huge problems. However, this is not a problem for one country or one area of the world. It is a problem for all humans. The people and the nations of the world must work together to conserve the world's resources. No one controls the future, but we all help make it.

ability = what we can do

huge = very big, immense

however = but

nation = the people of one particular country

Main Ideas:

- We humans are destroying the environment.
- We are using up all of our natural resources.
- We must conserve natural resources for the next generations, too.
- Most problems of the environment come from population growth.
- More people need more natural resources.
- There isn't an equal distribution of natural resources in the world.

- We are using up the world's petroleum and some petrochemicals that we get from petroleum are dangerous for the environment.
- Environmental problems are international and all nations of the world should cooperate to solve them.

Source:

[Pre-Intermediate 1 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://Pre-Intermediate 1 (anglophone.ir))