



SOME WATER POLLUTION SOLUTIONS

Teddy says to himself, “We all have a problem with water pollution. It’s time to meet and have an open discussion about the problem. I will invite ten representatives of different aquatic races. We need to understand each other, so I’ll have interpreters for three different languages.”

He sends invitations (in the appropriate language) to local residents – Catfish, Bass, Minnow, Trout, Cod and also to Horseshoe Crab, Shark, Starfish, Sturgeon and Salmon from other places.

**Invitation to a meeting with Teddy Bear. Where: water beside River-side Park.
When: Tuesday, 10:00 am. Topic for discussion: water pollution**

Catfish, Bass, Minnow, Trout, Cod, Shark, Horseshoe Crab, Starfish, Sturgeon and Salmon gather in the water at Rivers-side Park on Tuesday at 10. Three interpreters are already there.

“Welcome, welcome, everyone!” Teddy says to the crowd.” I’m so pleased you could all attend this meeting.”

“Glad to be invited.” Trout says.

“Happy to be here!” Catfish says.

“I don’t often get invited to meetings,” Salmon says. “So I’m excited to attend.”

“I don’t think everyone has met,” Teddy says. “There are several out-of-towners along with our local residents. Please introduce yourself.”

“Horseshoe Crab from the Chesapeake Bay,” Horseshoe Crab says.

“I’m Cod and come from Cape Cod in the Northeast,” Cod tells the group.

“I’m Salmon from the Pacific Northwest,” Salmon says. “Pleased to be at this meeting.”

“I’m Shark and I won’t hurt you,” Shark says. “I live in the Atlantic Ocean.”

“I live in salty ocean water. I’m Starfish,” he says.

“My name is Sturgeon,” she says. “I migrate from ocean to river.”

“Now we can begin our meeting,” Teddy announces. “As you know, the topic for discussion is water pollution. First of all, what is water pollution?”

Catfish responds quickly, “It’s contaminated water in the river. It’s unhealthy.”

“It’s contaminated water in the ocean,” Shark says. “It hurts all of us.”

“It’s contaminated water in the lake,” Minnow says. “It makes us sick.”

“It’s contaminated water in the Bay,” Crab says. “It’s bad for our health.”

“It’s contaminated water in rivers that run into oceans,” Sturgeon says.

“Excellent points!” Teddy says writing in his tablet. “Second, what causes water pollution?”

“It comes from sewage,” Starfish answers.

“It comes from pesticides and fertilizers from farms,” Trout says.

“It comes from waste water and chemicals from factories,” Bass says.

“It comes from silt from construction sites,” Salmon says.

“It comes from trash that people throw down - littering,” Crab says.

“It comes from too much plastic,” Minnow says.

“It comes from contaminated storm water runoff,” Shark says.

“From ‘forever chemicals’ that aren’t biodegradable,” Sturgeon says.

“Yes, you are all very aware of what causes the pollution that harms you and others,” Teddy says writing in his tablet “Who can give us an example of how water pollution occurs?”

Bass speaks up, “I’ve done some research online, so I can give an example. It is raining hard. Old candy wrappers, motor oil, plastic bags and chemical-sprayed grass wash down the street into the storm drain. The storm drain’s underground pipes lead to a river. Old candy wrappers, motor oil, and plastic bags now pollute the river with their chemicals.”

“That really gets the point across about the danger of littering,” Teddy concludes. “Thank you, Bass!”

“Humans need to stop littering,” Shark says. “They need to realize how they are hurting the environment.”

“What can people do to reduce water pollution? What are some solutions?” Teddy asks.

Salmon says, “Save water. Don’t waste it.”

Cod says, “Use natural products outdoors. Don’t use pesticides, herbicides and chemicals.

Bass says, “Put cooking oil or grease in the trash. Don’t put oil down the sink.

Crab says, “Recycle motor oil. Don’t dump it.”

Minnow says, “Pick up litter. Don’t litter.”

Starfish says, “Compost yard waste.

Sturgeon says, “People need to think before they act.”

“I will make a poster with your points,” Teddy says. “And I will write a report of our discussion. I am so grateful to each of you for your input.”

“Thank you, Teddy, for listening to us,” Trout says.

“Thank you for letting our voices be heard,” Catfish says.

“Grateful to participate,” Cod says.

“Important discussion to have. Much appreciate being part of it,” Crab says.

They all flap their fins in agreement.



How do my usual activities add to water pollution? What can I do to stop water pollution?

Problem: water pollution

6R solution:

- *Reduce water-use indoors**
- *Reject chemical products in favor of natural products for outdoor use.**
- *Release cooking oil or grease into trash.**
- *Recycle motor oil.**
- *Refuse to litter. Pick up litter.**
- *Restore pure water.**

Water Pollution Report

What is water pollution? Groundwater and water in lakes, rivers, bays, gulfs and oceans is contaminated. People cannot swim in, drink, cook or clean with contaminated water. It harms aquatic animals and plants.

What causes water pollution? A lot of water pollution comes from sewage, pesticides and fertilizers from farms, waste water and chemicals from factories, silt from construction sites, and trash from people littering.

How does it get there? Rainwater pours directly into ponds or lakes and washes everything down storm sewers to streams, rivers, bays, gulfs, oceans.

What is an example of how water becomes polluted? It rains hard. Old candy wrappers, motor oil, plastic bags and chemical-sprayed grass wash down the street into the storm drain. The storm drain's underground pipes lead to a river. Old candy wrappers, motor oil, plastic bags, dog poop now pollute the river with their chemicals.