

## Summary: Helping the Environment

### Conservation of Resources

People use natural resources that are found in the environment. Natural resources include plants, fresh water, oil, trees, and soil. People need to use natural resources carefully. Some natural resources, like oil, are gone forever once they are used.

Things that people do affect the environment. When people plant trees or recycle, they help the environment. When people let smoke get in the air, they cause pollution. Pollution hurts the environment. Many scientists believe that some things that people do can cause global warming. The ice around the Poles could melt and cause flooding and other problems.

### Wants, Needs, and the Environment

Sometimes people hurt the environment when they use natural resources. Conflicts can happen between these people and people who try to save the environment. For example, some people who live in rain forests cut down the trees. They sell the wood to make money and then farm on the cleared land. Other people don't want the forests cut down. They want to protect the plants, trees, and animals that live there.

People can work together to solve conflicts. For example, the factories in Chattanooga were polluting the city's air and water. People wanted clean air and water, but the factories needed to stay open. The city worked with business leaders and put cleaners on factory smokestacks. Many trees were planted, too. Today the city has clean air and water.



#### Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

**natural resources** *noun*, things in nature that people use

**environment** *noun*, the water, soil, air, and living things around you

**pollution** *noun*, anything that dirties the air, soil, or water

**global warming** *noun*, the average temperature of Earth getting higher over time

**conflict** *noun*, a disagreement



#### After You Read

**REVIEW** What are some ways that people can affect the environment? Highlight one sentence that tells the good things people do and one sentence that tells how people hurt the environment.

**REVIEW** Give an example of how people's wants and needs can conflict with protecting the environment. Draw a box around four sentences that give a good example.