

STUDY NOTES: WATERSHEDS & SUSTAINABILITY

Water Principles

- The quality of water in a river or lake is influenced by both natural factors and how people use the land around it.
- Everyone is responsible for the health of the watershed and the water systems within it.
- Our actions, good or bad, have an impact on our water supply.

Pollution and Water Quality

- The choices people make and the pollution they create upstream can affect communities and ecosystems downstream.
- When tracking water quality we focus on two main categories of pollution:
 - Point Source Pollution: Point pollution comes from a specific place, like a factory pipe or a sewage drain. It is easier to monitor, and we have laws to protect against it. “It is *pollution you can point to*”.
 - Nonpoint Source Pollution: nonpoint pollution is harder to track as it can come from different places. These pollutants could result from agriculture, transportation, industry, or runoff.

Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI)

- Nature-based systems, like rain gardens, permeable pavements, green roofs, bioswales, and urban trees, that capture, slow, and treat stormwater where it falls.
- GSI reduces pollution and flooding while improving community resilience.

Name:_____

FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS NOTES

1. The quality of water in a river or lake is influenced by both natural factors and how _____ use the land around it.
2. _____ is responsible for the health of the watershed and the water systems within it.
3. Our _____, good or bad, have an impact on our water supply.
4. The choices people make and the pollution they create _____ can affect communities and ecosystems _____.
5. _____ pollution comes from a specific place, like a factory's pipe or a sewage drain.
6. _____ pollution is harder to track as it can come from different places. These pollutants could result from agriculture, transportation, industry, or runoff.
7. Green Stormwater Infrastructure, like rain gardens and _____, helps to reduce _____ and _____ while improving community resilience.

Name:_____

QUIZ

Question 1: How do people's actions on the land affect the water that flows to others downstream?

Question 2: What is an example of Point Source Pollution?

Question 3: What is an example of Nonpoint Source Pollution?

Question 4: What can Green Stormwater Infrastructure help to reduce?

Quiz Answer Key:

1. The choices people make and the pollution they create upstream can affect communities and ecosystems downstream.
2. A factory pipe, a sewage drain; any source of pollution that we can easily identify or point to.
3. Agriculture, transportation, industry, or runoff; pollution that is harder to track as it can come from different places.
4. Pollution, flooding

Answer Key for Fill-in-the-Blanks:

1. people
2. Everyone
3. actions
4. upstream, downstream
5. Point Source
6. Nonpoint Source
7. permeable pavements/green roofs/bioswales/urban trees, pollution, flooding