

NAME: _____

Disruptive Scenarios

Disruptions to our natural habitats can have widespread effects. Not only can they destroy natural and human environments, but they can cause social instability as well. In this activity, you will think about several real-life situations where disruptions are causing major problems around the world—sometimes closer than you think.

Instructions: Draw a line matching the disruptions on the left with the corresponding effects on the right.

DISRUPTION

Invasive beetles—thriving in a warming climate—kill a huge forest.

Coastal wetlands are slowly destroyed by oil drilling operations.

Chemicals from agricultural fields drain into a river lacking vegetation on its banks.

Carbon dioxide from human activity causes rising temperatures.

Visitors destroy grasses and dunes on a beach, which is a vital habitat for endangered species.

EFFECTS

Species dependent on this ecosystem—birds, mammals, insects, and other plants—are forced to move or die.

Low-lying cities along the coast suffer massive flooding due to the lack of a buffer from the sea.

A “dead zone” is caused when a chemical imbalance causes an algal bloom, depriving fish species of oxygen.

Sea levels rise, causing coastal flooding. Plants and animals struggle to adapt to new temperatures.

Shorebird populations plummet, some of which are driven to the brink of extinction.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT?

For each of the scenarios above, identify a state where the disruption is happening and describe how it impacts human life.

SCENARIO	STATE	IMPACT ON HUMANS
Invasive beetles		
Destruction of wetlands		
Chemicals in rivers		
Excess of carbon dioxide		
Destruction of dunes		