

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE: WATER

KEY FACTS

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- Water is the source of all life, the most important liquid in our ecosystems – living organisms including humans cannot survive without it
- Over two-thirds of the Earth's surface is water
- Water pollution is the contamination of water bodies such as lakes, rivers, oceans and ground water, usually as a result of human activities
- Water pollution results when contaminants are introduced into the natural environment
- There are many causes of water pollution: industrial waste, sewage and wastewater, mining activities, marine dumping, oil leakage, burning of fossil fuels, and chemical fertilizers and pesticides
- Water pollution kills the organisms that depend on water bodies: lack of oxygen and by absorbing pollutants into their bodies
- Polluted water can kill crops and disturb the food chains
- Everyone can help reduce water pollution by taking simple steps (helping out on beach cleans or litter picks to keep our rivers and seas cleaner, and using natural fertilizers).

BIODIVERSITY



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WORKING SCIENTIFICALLY



OBSERVING



COLLECTING AND RECORDING DATA



PRESENTING FINDINGS



TESTING/EXPERIMENTING



MEASURING



CONCLUDING



WRITING SCIENTIFICALLY

KEY VOCABULARY

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- Ecosystems** – a large community of living organisms (plants, animals and microbes) in a particular area.
- Contamination** - the action or state of making or being made impure by polluting or poisoning.
- Water bodies** - large or small, freshwater or saltwater found in landscapes.
- Sewage** - waste waters from sewers.
- Marine dumping** - the disposal of wastes into seas and sea beds.
- Fertilizers** - substance added to soil or land to increase its fertility.
- Pesticides** - substance used for destroying insects or other organisms harmful to cultivated plants or to animals.
- Food chains** - series of organisms each dependent on the next as a source of food.

SIGNIFICANT PEOPLE



Andreas Fath is a German scientist and a world record swimmer, who swam the entire Tennessee River to study and bring attention to what taints our waters.