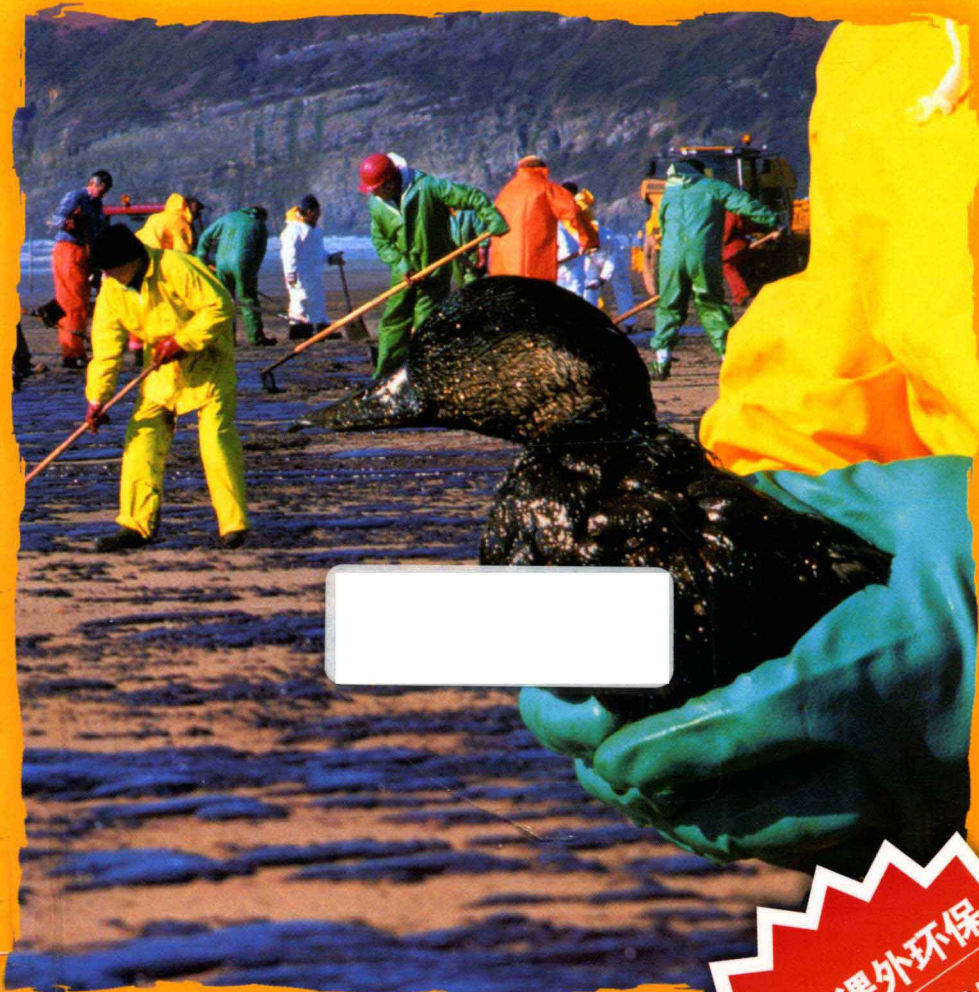


EARTH IN DANGER

危险中的地球

Pollution

环境污染



中国环境科学出版社

中小学课外环保
双语读物

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Pollution

环境污染

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请见词汇表中对文中**黑体字**的解释。

WHAT IS POLLUTION?

Pollution can hurt every living thing on our planet! It happens whenever something harmful or poisonous is put into the **environment**.

Pollution can affect the air we breathe, when smoke and other chemicals are released into the **atmosphere**. When chemicals are dumped into our rivers and oceans, the pollution from them can affect the water we drink and the food we eat. It can also kill birds and other animals and prevent plants from growing.

Pollution can also get into the soil, especially when too many **pesticides** and chemical **fertilisers** are used on farmland. There, it may also affect both the food we eat and the health of plants and animals.

什么是污染？

污染会伤害我们星球上的每一个生物。一旦有毒有害物质排放到环境中，就会产生污染。

当烟尘和其他化学物质被排放到大气层中时，污染就会影响到我们呼吸的空气。当化学物质被倾倒入河流和海洋中时，污染就会影响到饮用水和其他食物。污染还会导致鸟类和其他动物死亡，并且影响到植物的生长。

污染会渗透到土壤中，尤其当我们在农田里过度使用杀虫剂和化学肥料时更是这样。由此，污染不仅仅会影响我们所吃的食物，还会影响到植物的生长和动物的健康。



AIR POLLUTION — SMOG

One very common type of pollution is smog. Smog can hang over cities like a dark cloud. It makes it very difficult to see objects in the distance.

Smog is a mixture of smoke and fog. It happens when a layer of warm, heavy air stops polluted air from rising. This is why it's often smoggy on hot summer days, when pollution from traffic and chimneys builds up around cities. When this happens, harmful chemicals are trapped near the ground, and we breathe them in.

Smog can make your eyes, nose, and throat sore, and can make it hard to breathe. Over many years, air pollution can harm people's lungs and may even cause lung cancer.

空气污染——烟雾

烟雾污染是最普遍的污染形式之一。烟雾使城市像是被笼罩在乌云之中，让人们很难看清远处的物体。

烟雾是烟尘与雾的混合物。当被污染的空气上升时，会被热的、重的空气层阻止和混合，就形成了烟雾。这就是被汽车尾气和烟囱排出的烟尘污染的城市在严热的夏季总是烟雾弥漫的原因。当烟雾形成时，有害的化学物质就被滞留在近地面层，很容易被我们吸入到肺里。

烟雾会引起你的眼睛、鼻子和喉咙疼痛，并且会使人呼吸困难。长时间的空气污染会引起肺部疾病，甚至会引起肺癌。



LONDON SMOG

Smog used to be a serious problem in London. In 1952, as many as 12,000 Londoners may have died from the effects of smog. The problem was solved when officials banned the burning of coal within the city.

伦敦烟雾

伦敦的烟雾污染曾非常严重。在1952年，伦敦有多达12000人死于烟雾污染引起的疾病。直到政府下令禁止伦敦城内燃烧煤炭，问题才最终得到解决。



Bangkok is a city in Thailand which suffers badly from smog.

曼谷是泰国的一座城市，那里烟雾污染严重。



GREENHOUSE GASES

We have seen how pollution can become trapped in Earth's atmosphere. Some gases also trap warm air. These are called **greenhouse gases**.

Burning **fossil fuels**, such as coal, oil or gas, adds greenhouse gases to our atmosphere. Without greenhouse gases, it would be too cold for us to survive. However, the buildup of greenhouse gases is now causing Earth to warm up too much. This is called **global warming**.

Global warming may cause **drought** in some places. It could also cause ice at the North and South Poles to melt. This would make the sea rise and cause flooding.

温室气体

我们已经了解到污染物是如何污染地球的大气层的。一些气体会困住热的空气，这些气体叫做**温室气体**。

燃烧**化石燃料**，例如煤炭、石油和天然气，会使大气层中的温室气体增多。没有温室气体，地球太冷，人类将无法生存。然而，目前温室气体增加得太多了，使地球太热。这一现象就叫**全球变暖**。

全球变暖会在一些地区引起**干旱**。同样还会引起南极和北极冰川的融化。这就会引起海平面的上升，并引发洪水。

ACID RAIN

Burning fossil fuels releases a chemical that can pollute moisture in the air. The result is **acid rain**, a very dangerous substance that can damage plants and buildings hundreds of kilometres from its source.



酸雨

燃烧化石燃料会释放一种化学物质引起潮湿空气的污染。**酸雨**便由此产生。酸雨非常危险，会损害方圆几百公里的建筑物和植物。



RIVER POLLUTION

For thousands of years, many people have used rivers for drinking, doing laundry, and cooking. River water polluted by chemicals and sewage can make people sick, and those people may in turn pass on their illnesses to others.

In order to grow more crops, farmers sometimes use fertilisers and pesticides on their fields. When it rains, these chemicals may be washed into nearby rivers.

Pesticides kill wildlife in the river. Fertilisers can make fast-growing weeds and **algae** grow even faster. The weeds and algae use up oxygen as they grow. They use up even more oxygen when they die and rot. This means that there is not enough oxygen for the animals in the river to breathe.

河流污染

千百年来，河水都是很多人饮水、洗衣和做饭的重要水源。被化学物质和污水所污染的河水会使人生病，并且这些病还会传染给其他人。

为了使农作物高产，农民有时会使用杀虫剂和化学肥料。当下雨的时候，这些化学物质会被冲刷到附近的河流中。

杀虫剂会杀死河流中的野生生物。化学肥料会使速生的水草和蓝藻迅速繁衍。随着水草和蓝藻的生长，他们会消耗水中的氧气。当水草和蓝藻死亡或者腐烂时，会消耗更多的氧气。这意味着水中的动物就会缺乏呼吸所需的氧气。

Harmful waste water from
factories is sometimes poured
straight into rivers.

工厂有害废水有时会直接排放到河流中。



POLLUTED OCEANS

People once thought that anything dumped into the ocean would harmlessly disappear. Today we know better!

Many of the same chemicals that pollute rivers also end up in the ocean. Fertilisers washed into rivers may go out into the ocean and cause fast-growing algae. These **organisms** use up oxygen needed by other living things. As in rivers, too much algae can lead to the death of plants that sea creatures depend on for their survival.

Today, untreated sewage and chemicals from factories cause most of the pollution in our oceans. These pollutants poison sea life and can make swimmers and surfers sick.

海洋污染

人们曾认为进入海洋的任何东西都会消失，是无害的。现在我们有了新的认识。

很多流入河流的化学污染物最终会流入到海洋。被冲刷到河流里的化学肥料最终也会流入海洋，并且会引起蓝藻的暴发。这些**有机物**消耗了其他生物所需的氧气。像在河流里一样，过多的蓝藻会导致海洋动物赖以生存的植物的死亡。

目前，没有经过处理的污水和来自工厂的化学物质导致了海洋的污染。这些污染物毒害了海洋生物，并会给游泳者和冲浪者带来疾病。

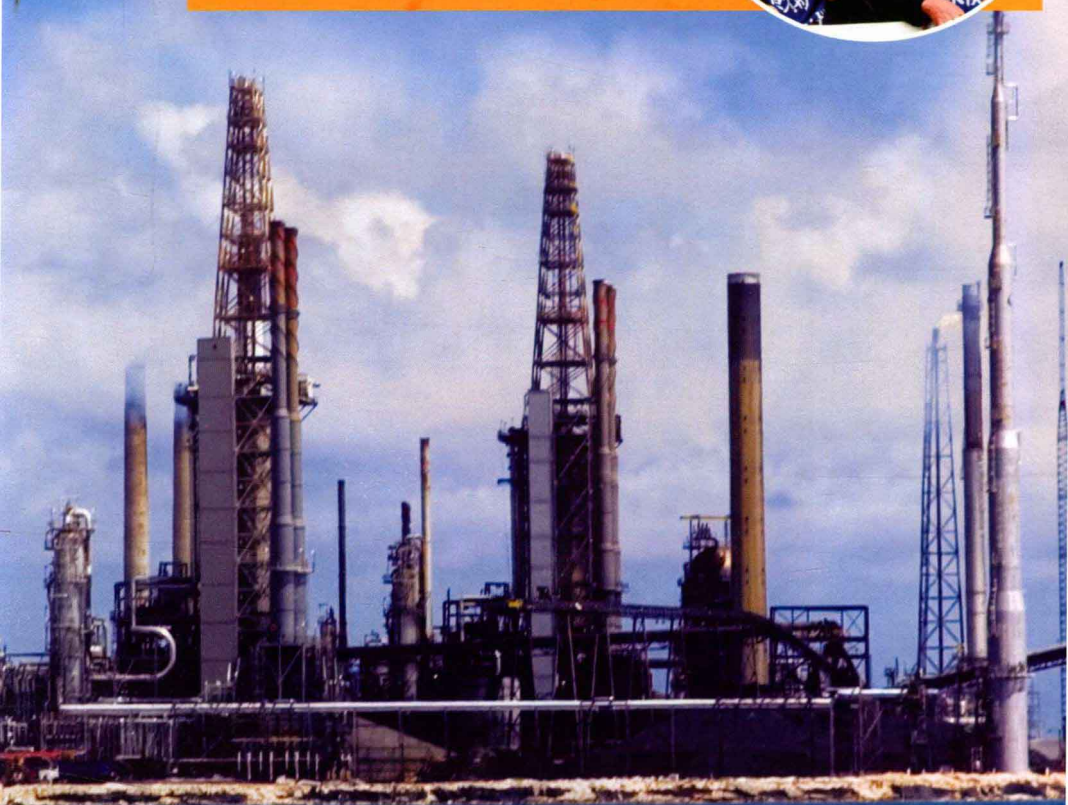


MERCURY POISONING IN JAPAN

These people are protesting against a factory in Japan which released **mercury** into the sea from 1932 to 1968. This poison built up in people who ate fish **contaminated** by the mercury. Over 2,000 people became seriously ill from mercury poisoning.

日本汞污染

游行队伍是反对日本一家工厂在1932—1968年间把汞排放到海里。人们吃了被汞污染鱼类导致中毒。2000多人因汞中毒而得了严重的疾病。



The Valero oil refinery on the island of Aruba. In 2006, a broken pipe in the refinery caused an oil spill.

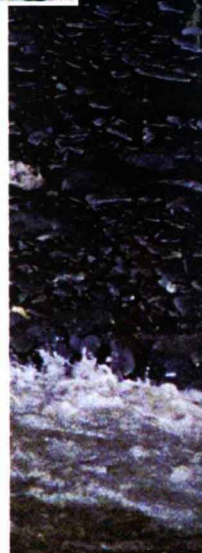
位于阿鲁巴岛 (Aruba) 的瓦莱罗 (Valero) 炼油厂。
2006年, 炼油厂管道损坏导致石油泄漏。

OIL SPILLS AT SEA

Crude oil is black, sticky, and deadly to wildlife. Large amounts of it can ruin beaches and destroy ocean life.

Oil pollution is often caused by oil tankers. Some of these ships release oil when they wash out their tanks into the ocean. Releasing oil into the ocean on purpose is illegal.

One of the worst oil disasters happened in 1989, when the tanker Exxon Valdez hit a reef in Alaska, USA. The oil slick that came from the ship may have killed more than 250,000 seabirds and other animals.



海洋石油泄漏

原油是黑色、黏稠的物质，会使生物丧生。大量原油会毁坏沙滩、摧毁海洋生物。

原油污染往往是由油船引起的。很多油船在清洗储油罐时会把储油罐内的油倒入海洋。故意向海洋倾倒原油是违法的行为。

1989年，Exxon Valdez号油轮在美国阿拉斯加触礁，这是史上最严重的原油泄漏事件之一。此次泄漏的浮油导致25万多只鸟类和其他动物死亡。



Workers cleaning up one of the polluted beaches after the Exxon Valdez disaster.

在Exxon Valdez 号油轮原油泄漏后，工人正在清理被污染的海滩。

POLLUTING THE LAND

Chemicals used to grow crops don't just pollute rivers and seas. They also affect life on land and in the air.

As well as killing weeds, weed killers also destroy plants that do not harm crops. Many insects eat these plants, and they may be killed by the pesticides.

Chemicals can stay in the bodies of birds and animals that eat contaminated crops or insects for a long time.

Some chemicals sprayed on land can also be spread by the wind. Scientists worry that these chemicals may make us sick if they end up on our food.

We could also get sick from eating meat from animals fed contaminated crops.

土壤污染

为了促进作物生长而使用的化学物质不仅仅会对河流和海洋造成污染，同样也会对空气中的生物和地上的生物带来影响。

除草剂不仅仅会除草，同样会损害其他植物。这些植物是昆虫赖以生存的食物，也可能被杀虫剂杀死。

被化学物质污染了的作物和昆虫一旦被鸟类等动物食用，化学物质就会长期停留在鸟类等动物身体里。

喷洒在地表的化学物质也会随风传播。科学家们担心，如果这些化学物质降落在食物表面将会使人类得病。如果用这些被污染的作物饲养动物，我们也会因食用这些动物的肉而得病。

