

# Skills for Living

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# Topic 25-3

## A Sound Environment

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- In this topic, you will learn about preserving the environment, as well as
  - ❖ **A healthful environment**
  - ❖ **Factors affecting the environment**
  - ❖ **Pollution**
  - ❖ **How you can help**

# A Sound Environment

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## **Objectives for Topic 25-3**

After studying this topic, you will be able to

- explain the importance of a healthful environment
- identify the causes of different types of pollution
- relate how pollution affects people's health
- discuss ways people can protect and build a healthful environment

# Topic 25-3 Terms

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- ❖ fossil fuels
- ❖ pollution
- ❖ hazardous waste

- ❖ toxic waste
- ❖ radon
- ❖ recycle



# A Healthful Environment

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- A *healthful environment* promotes good physical and mental health and enables people to reach their goals
  - ❖ clean air
  - ❖ unpolluted water
  - ❖ rich soil
  - ❖ a continuing supply of natural resources
  - ❖ pleasant surroundings
  - ❖ privacy

# Factors Affecting the Environment

- Two factors that play a major role in the increase in environmental problems are
  - ❖ rapid population growth
  - ❖ shrinking natural resources



# Rapid Population Growth

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- As the population increases,
  - ❖ available living space for each person decreases
  - ❖ existing resources must be divided among more people
  - ❖ more solid waste is created



# Shrinking Natural Resources

- ***Renewable resources*** are replaced rapidly enough to provide people with a continuing supply
  - ❖ plants, animals, water
- ***Nonrenewable resources*** are replaced very slowly and the supply is limited
  - ❖ ***fossil fuels***, or oil, coal, and natural gas
  - ❖ minerals such as copper and gold



# Pollution

- ***Pollution*** is all the harmful changes in the environment caused by human activities
- ***Pollutants*** are substances that actually cause pollution



# Air Pollution

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- The *greenhouse effect* means carbon dioxide acts as a blanket to keep earth's warmth from escaping
- Chemical pollutants cause the ozone layer to weaken, allowing more solar radiation to reach the earth
- *Acid rain* is when acids, in a wet or dry form, fall from the atmosphere, harming plant life and damaging buildings

# Water Pollution

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- *Water pollution* is the accidental or careless addition of waste materials to streams, rivers, lakes, and oceans
- Water pollution
  - ❖ reduces fresh water
  - ❖ is fatal to plant and animal life
  - ❖ pollutes food supply



# Noise Pollution

- ***Noise pollution*** is the excessive level of noise to which people are subject
- Noise pollution can cause
  - ❖ loss of hearing
  - ❖ increased stress
  - ❖ stress-related ailments



# Hazardous Waste

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- *Hazardous waste* is a by-product of society that poses a danger to human health or the environment when not properly managed
- *Toxic waste* is hazardous waste that can cause injury if inhaled, swallowed, or absorbed through the skin
- Proper disposal eliminates the danger of contaminating land, water, and air

# Radiation

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- Natural radiation sources include the sun, rocks, and soil
  - ❖ *Radon* is a colorless, odorless radioactive gas produced by the breakdown of radium
  - ❖ Radon becomes an environmental problem if it enters the home and reaches high concentrations
- Artificial radiation sources include X-rays and nuclear reactors



# Did You Know

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- Garden and lawn chemicals pollute
  - ❖ Common pesticides and fertilizers have been found in neighborhood streams

# How You Can Help

- Individuals play an important role in preserving and protecting the environment



# Conserve Resources

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- ***Recycling*** is reprocessing resources to use them again
- What can be recycled?
  - ❖ aluminum cans
  - ❖ glass and plastic bottles
  - ❖ paper
  - ❖ furniture
  - ❖ appliances
  - ❖ clothing



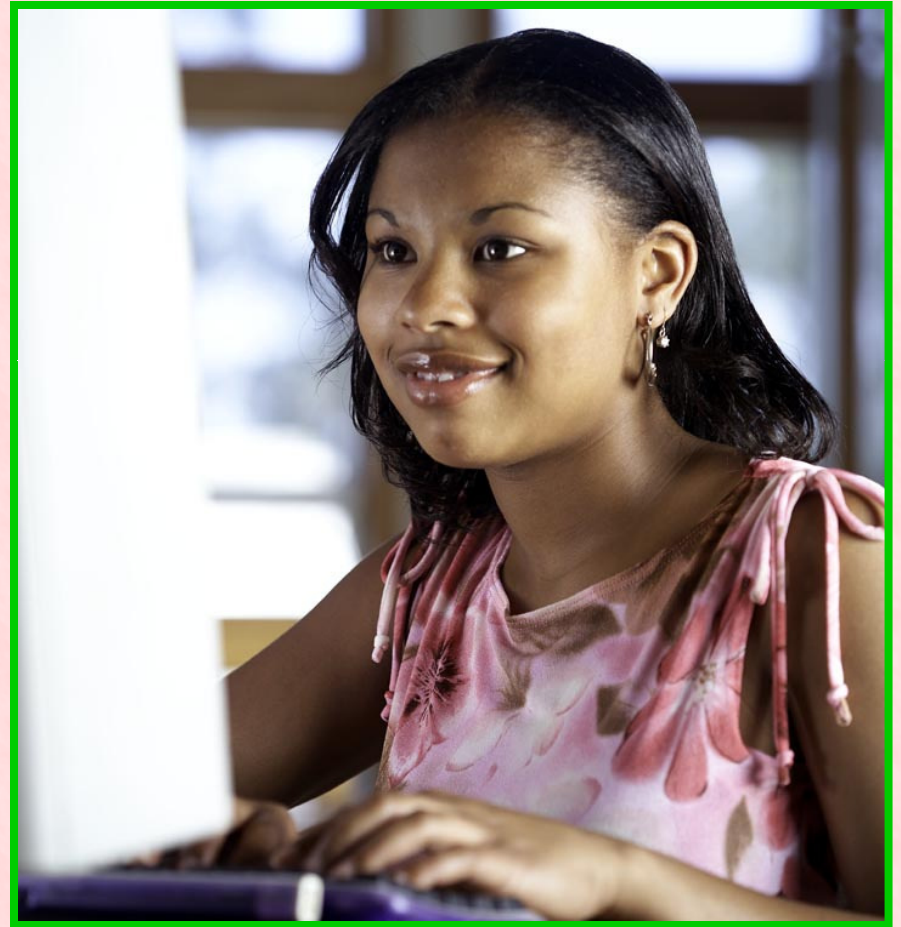
# Reduce Pollution

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- Instead of driving, walk, ride a bike, or take public transportation
- Carpool with friends
- Avoid dumping waste in water
- Reduce noise levels and insulate your home from noise pollution
- Stay informed about environmental issues

# Make Responsible Decisions

- Seek out environmental information from reputable sources, such as the Environmental Protection Agency, <http://www.epa.gov>



# Did You Know

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- The amount of paper thrown away every year by Americans could be used to build a 12-foot-high wall from New York City to Los Angeles

Source: Independent Recycling Services, Inc



# Summary for Topic 25-3

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- A healthful environment is one that promotes good physical and mental health and allows people to reach their goals
- Population growth and shrinking natural resources contribute to the increase of environmental problems
- Every person must assume responsibility for protecting the environment that supports all living things