

Subject	Science
Unit/Topic	Environmental Chemistry

Key Vocabulary	Definition
pH	A measure of how acid or alkali something is.
Acid rain	Rain with a pH of less than 5.
Sulfur dioxide	Acidic gas sometimes made by burning fossil fuels (esp coal).
Sulfuric acid	Solution formed when SO ₂ dissolves in water.
germination	When seeds start to sprout.
Independent variable	The thing you change in an investigation.
Neutralise	To make something with acid or alkali pH neutral (pH 7).
smog	An dense fog caused by a mixture of smoke and fog.
pollution	A harmful substance in the environment.
Respiratory	To do with the lungs.
Greenhouse effect	The warming of the atmosphere caused by greenhouse gases trapping infra-red rays from the sun.
Greenhouse gas	CO ₂ or methane. Methane is more potent, CO ₂ lasts longer.
Climate change	The result of the greenhouse effect.
Carbon cycle	The way in which carbon containing compounds circulate in the environment and the processes that cause this.
respiration	When cells convert energy in sugar to energy they can use. CO ₂ is a waste product. NOT BREATHING!
Photosynthesis	Plants use CO ₂ from the atmosphere and water to make sugar.

Combustion	Burning a fuel in oxygen. Gives off CO ₂ .
Recycling	Returning a used product to a manufactory so that it can be reused.
Sustainability	Using the Earth's resources so that they do not cause environmental damage.
Biofuel	Fuel made from plants (rather than a fossil fuel).
Fermentation	Using yeast to convert sugar to ethanol in the absence of oxygen.
Distillation	Separating out a mixture of liquids by using their different boiling points, evaporation then condensation.

