

Name _____

Nitrogen in Flux: Human Impact on the Nitrogen Cycle

Short Answer Key

1. Excessive fertilizer use can lead to nitrogen runoff into water bodies due to rainwater carrying nitrogen compounds from fields into nearby streams and rivers.
2. Nitrogen emissions from vehicles and factories can alter soil chemistry by depositing onto land surfaces, changing soil nutrient ratios, and affecting plant growth.
3. Nitrogen oxide emissions contribute to respiratory problems, cardiovascular diseases, and ecosystem degradation through acid rain formation and air pollution.
4. The combustion of fossil fuels increases atmospheric nitrogen levels by releasing nitrogen oxides and ammonia into the air, contributing to smog formation and air quality degradation.
5. One potential solution to mitigate the negative impacts of human activities on the nitrogen cycle is to promote sustainable agriculture practices, such as organic farming, reduced tillage, and nutrient management strategies.

