

Name _____

Troubled Waters: Understanding Water Pollution

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Plastic pollution in marine ecosystems can harm marine wildlife through ingestion and entanglement, disrupt marine food webs, and release toxic chemicals. Solutions may include reducing plastic use, improving waste management, and promoting recycling and cleanup efforts.
2. Watershed management strategies like riparian buffer zones and wetland restoration can help filter pollutants, reduce nutrient runoff, and provide habitat for wildlife, thus improving water quality in freshwater ecosystems.
3. Public education campaigns can raise awareness about water pollution, encourage responsible behaviors like proper waste disposal and conservation, and empower communities to advocate for policy changes and participate in restoration projects.
4. Addressing water pollution requires collaborative efforts to address underlying causes like industrial discharge, urban runoff, and agricultural practices, while also addressing broader environmental issues like climate change and habitat loss. Integrated approaches can include policy reforms, technological innovations, and community engagement to achieve sustainable water management goals.

