

1st Place District Winner

Calista Anderson

A World of Trash

Did you just see that? That man just threw his Coca-Cola can into the river!

River pollution happens every day and it's terrible. River pollution occurs in rivers, affects our natural resources, and impacts our oceans all the time.

Careless and lazy people throw cans, cups, and trash into the rivers because they're too lazy to walk to a trashcan or recycling bin. Most people just don't care that they're hurting the environment by polluting. Also, big factories located near rivers dump oils and other waste into the river water. The boats that ride up and down the river let out gasoline and boat fuel that will stay in the river forever.

There are many effects of pollution in rivers. The plant and animal life are wilting and dying away because of pollution. River animals think the trash is food and eat it. The pollution could kill many animals because they can't digest the trash. Harsh chemicals are soaking into the soil causing the plants to wilt away and die. Without the plants and flowers, some herbivores that live in and around the rivers will not have anything to eat. Also, the rivers will not look pretty and well landscaped without the plants and flowers. Instead they will look trashy and unkempt. If our rivers are full of trash and pollution then people will not want to come and enjoy the rivers around them. Fisherman will suffer too because they will not have any fish for them to catch and sell.

Pollution in rivers also impacts our oceans because most rivers flow into an ocean at some point. All the trash gets swept up into the ocean by currents and

it really damages our ocean life. Just like in the rivers, pollution kills marine life in the ocean. The animals are forced to swim in and sometimes eat all the trash. Some marine and aquatic species are at the risk of endangerment or even extinction. Also the once beautiful coral reefs are dying out because of oil spills and harsh chemicals. Our beaches look trashy because they are full of pollution and oil. When our beaches are trashy, tourists will not come to visit and then the economy will lose money.

River pollution affects plants, animals, soil, coral reefs, oceans, and even tourism. Can't people wait a few more minutes to get to a trash can instead of throwing their trash into a nearby river? Pollution kills our natural resources and most of all earth. It's as easy as 1, 2, 3 to stop river pollution and save our rivers, oceans, and earth.