

Bringing the Stories Together

How mundane or ordinary aspects of daily life can lead to environmental issues by disrupting ecological function (in this case abiotic factors).

Convene a final discussion of the *Science Bulletins* bringing the stories together through a discussion of how mundane or ordinary aspects of daily life can lead to environmental issues by disrupting ecological function (in this case abiotic factors)

Discussion

Key Idea: The daily lives of people add abiotic factors to ecosystems, which disrupt many species.

Question: After watching these *Bulletins* of the environmental issues that result after changing abiotic factors, give examples of how **changing abiotic factors impact species** in unforeseeable ways?

Answer:

- Adding salt kills freshwater ecosystems
- Building concrete buildings absorbs heat and makes the environment hotter
- Adding artificial light at night kills aquatic insects
- Driving and using heating, air conditioning, electronics like cell phones and computers contribute to a rising carbon dioxide levels and temperature.
- Water pollution disrupts large water ecosystems

Question: What are some possible ways to reduce changing abiotic ecosystem factors?

Answer:

- Using alternatives to salt like CMA
- Constructing buildings with green roofs and planting more trees
- Using non-polarized light, motion sensors, and full cut-off fixtures
- Cleaning up polluted rivers

Note: For more detailed answers see the Answer Keys of the graphic organizers for the *Science Bulletins*.