

The following is a note made by a group of students a few years ago. I did not type this, I only merged the e-mails that they sent to me.

## **Re-Directing Water Flow**

- moving rock and soil is called erosion, wind and water cause erosions, the soil can be washed away by erosion
- animals are forced to flee, or could be killed
- when animals leave, they move to new eco-system where resources may not be as plenty
- hills and farmland are bulldozed
- machines destroy plants in area
- soil washes into reservoir, making it muddy and harder for organisms in the reservoir to survive
- down wind dams that are large in size, could receive more rain, snow, etc., this happens because there is larger accumulation of water to evaporate, condense and fall

## **The Carbon Cycle**

- carbon is necessary for all life to exist
- fossil fuels burn and release carbon dioxide into the air
- people have released large amounts of carbon dioxide by the wide-spread burning of tropical rainforests for farming
- destruction of rainforests also reduces the number of photosynthesizing organisms, making the cycle more unbalanced
- people are burning too many fossil fuels
- as long as there is not more carbon dioxide than plants use, the carbon cycle works well and the system stays in balance.

## **Fossil Fuels**

- long ago plankton in the seas trapped energy from the sunlight
- the plankton die and sink to the sea bed

- the plankton are trapped by layers of mud and silt, which put pressure turning them to ooze
- in time the substances in the ooze are changed to natural gas and petroleum oils
- fossil fuels are products from these oils

## **Greenhouse Gases**

- the atmosphere surrounding the earth allows sunlight to pass through to the earth's surface
- global warming is a gradual warming of the earth's atmosphere
- since the atmosphere acts like the glass of the greenhouse it allows life on earth because warm air is trapped inside the atmosphere
- greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, which result from the burning of fossil fuels, are building up in the atmosphere
- since the atmosphere keeps the warm air trapped in the earth with pollution it is a big contribution of global warming
- basically, earth is a large greenhouse because it absorbs light, contains warm air and provides organisms with their requirements to live