

# Vocabulary

*Study the vocabulary words and definitions below.*

- acid rain** ..... rain containing substances harmful to the environment
- biodegradable** ..... capable of being decomposed by biological agents, especially bacteria
- contamination** ..... corruption, pollution, infection; making impure by contact or mixture
- dispersant** ..... a substance used to drive off or scatter another substance
- mechanical containment** ..... a method used to control oil spills by placing booms around the spill to prevent the movement or spreading of the oil
- nonpoint-source pollutant** ..... pollution that does *not* come directly from one source  
*Example:* surface-water runoff, acid rain
- oxidation** ..... the combination of a substance with oxygen or other compounds, involving the loss of electrons
- PCBs** ..... stands for *polychlorinated biphenyls*, a group of persistent and toxic chemicals used in transformers and capacitors; banned in the United States since 1979
- pesticides** ..... chemicals used to destroy insects

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- point-source pollutant** ..... pollution that comes directly from a source  
*Example:* raw sewage from a sewage pipe
- pollutant** ..... something that causes contamination, especially a waste material that contaminates air, soil, or water
- raw sewage** ..... untreated liquid and solid waste usually carried off in sewers or drains
- thermal pollution** ..... an artificial increase or decrease in water temperature that disturbs marine life