

**3° ANO**  
**E.M**

**SEMANA 31**

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How well do we take care of our planet?



1. Look at the following pictures. Which of them illustrates a bigger source of pollution?

a) ( )



■ vehicle emissions

b) ( )



■ cattle farms

2. Read the following excerpt about pollution and check your answer to the previous activity. **Cattle farms pollute our planet the most.**

1. Meet the world's top destroyer of the environment. It is not the car, or the plane, or even George Bush: it is the cow.
2. A United Nations report has identified the world's rapidly growing herds of cattle as the greatest threat to the climate, forests and **wildlife**. [...]
3. The 400-page report by the Food and Agricultural Organisation, entitled **Livestock's** Long Shadow, also surveys the damage done by sheep, chickens, pigs and goats. But in almost every case, the world's 1.5 billion cattle are most to blame. Livestock are responsible for 18 per cent of the **greenhouse gases** that cause **global warming**, more than cars, planes and all other forms of transport put together.
4. Burning fuel to produce fertiliser to grow feed, to produce meat and to transport it – and clearing vegetation for grazing – produces 9 per cent of all emissions of carbon dioxide, the most common greenhouse gas. And their wind and manure emit more than one third of emissions of another, methane, which warms the world 20 times faster than carbon dioxide.
5. Livestock also produces more than 100 other polluting gases, including more than two-thirds of the world's emissions of ammonia, one of the main causes of **acid rain**.

**Livestock:** this collective noun can be followed by either a singular or a plural verb. The same happens to most of collective nouns.



6. **Ranching**, the report adds, is “the major driver of **deforestation**” worldwide, and overgrazing is turning a fifth of all pastures and ranges into desert. Cows also soak up vast amounts of water: it takes a staggering 990 **litres** of water to produce one litre of milk.
7. Wastes from **feedlots** and fertilisers used to grow their feed overnourish water, causing weeds to choke all other life. And the pesticides, antibiotics and hormones used to treat them get into drinking water and endanger human health.
8. The pollution washes down to the sea, killing coral reefs and creating “dead zones” devoid of life. One is up to 21,000sqkm, in the Gulf of Mexico, where much of the waste from US beef production is carried down the Mississippi.
9. The report concludes that, unless drastic changes are made, the massive damage done by livestock will more than double by 2050, as demand for meat increases.

**litres:** UK spelling.

**liters:** US spelling.

3. Read the article again and indicate the paragraph(s) where you can find the following information.

- a) Rearing cattle is a threat to forests. \_\_\_\_\_
- b) A warning about the future \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Rearing cattle is water-polluting. \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Gases produced by livestock \_\_\_\_\_
- e) The answer to the question: Which pollutes our planet the most? \_\_\_\_\_
- f) Details about the United Nations report on livestock and their impact on the environment \_\_\_\_\_

#### Fun facts

**Herd** is the collective noun used for quite a few animals, such as cows, elephants, deer, and zebras.

4. Choose the word or phrase that best replaces the words in bold.

- a) "A United Nations report has identified the world's rapidly growing **herds** of cattle as the greatest threat to the climate, forests and wildlife."
  - I. ( ) groups of bovine animals
  - II. ( ) groups of birds
  - III. ( ) groups of marsupials
- b) "Livestock are responsible for 18 per cent of the greenhouse gases that cause global warming, more

than cars, planes and all other forms of transport put together."

- I. ( ) eggs produced on a farm
  - II. ( ) means of transportation used on a farm
  - III. ( ) farm animals raised for food, labor, etc.
- c) "Burning fuel to produce fertiliser to grow feed, to produce meat and to transport it – and clearing vegetation for grazing – produces 9 per cent of all emissions of carbon dioxide, the most common greenhouse gas."
    - I. ( ) food for farm animals - crops
    - II. ( ) crops - pastures
    - III. ( ) food for farm animals - pastures
  - d) "And their wind and manure emit more than one third of emissions of another, methane, which warms the world 20 times faster than carbon dioxide."
    - I. ( ) flatulence – liquid waste
    - II. ( ) flatulence – solid waste
    - III. ( ) breath – solid waste
  - e) "Ranching, the report adds, is 'the major driver of deforestation' worldwide, and overgrazing is turning a fifth of all pastures and ranges into desert."
    - I. ( ) grazing land
    - II. ( ) mountains
    - III. ( ) forests

f) "Wastes from feedlots and fertilisers used to grow their feed overnourish water, causing weeds to choke all other life."

I. ( ) feed

II. ( ) strangle

III. ( ) embellish

5. Complete the following sentences with the words from activity 4.

a) The \_\_\_\_\_ sector is in crisis.

b) Eww! I think I just stepped on \_\_\_\_\_!

c) Don't hold the little chick like that. You're going to \_\_\_\_\_ the poor thing.

d) What's this smell? I think this cow just passed some \_\_\_\_\_.

e) Large areas of rainforest are being cut down for \_\_\_\_\_.

6. What would you be willing to do in order to help with the problem described in the article? Check all that apply.

a) ( ) Cut down on meat

b) ( ) Go vegan

c) ( ) Go vegetarian

d) ( ) Educate people about the impact of meat production on the environment

Estimule os alunos a justificar suas respostas e também apresentar outras soluções ao problema descrito no texto.  
Answers will vary.

