

Тема: Проблемы экологии в России и за рубежом. Влияние научно-технического прогресса на окружающую среду.

Ecology problems

Since ancient times Nature has served man, being the source of his life. For thousands of years people lived in harmony with **environment** and it seemed to them that **natural riches** were unlimited. But with the development of civilization man's interference in nature began to increase.

Every year world industry **pollutes** the **atmosphere** with about 1000 million tons of **dust** and other things. As a result some **rare species** of animals, birds, fish and plants disappear forever. Many cities suffer from **smog**.

Large cities with thousands of smoky **industrial enterprises** appear all over the world today. The **by-products** of their activity pollute the air we breathe, the water we drink, the land we grow vegetables.

The **pollution** of air and the world's ocean, **destruction of the ozone layer** is the result of man's careless **interaction** with nature. **Environmental protection** is of a **universal concern**. That is why serious measures to create a system of ecological security should be taken.

Some progress has been already made in this direction. As many as 159 countries — **members of the UNO** — have set up environmental protection agencies. Numerous conferences have been held by these agencies to discuss problems facing ecologically poor regions including the Aral Sea, the South Urals, Kuzbass, Donbass, Semipalatinsk and Chernobyl. An international environmental research centre has been set up on Lake Baikal. The **international organization Greenpeace** is also doing much to preserve the environment.

But these are only the initial steps and they must be carried onward to protect nature, to save life on the planet not only for the present but also for the future generations.

Задание: прочтите и переведите текст, обращая внимание на выделенные слова. Они и раскрывают тему сегодняшнего занятия. Выпишите их в свой словарь и переведите на русский язык.

Ответьте на вопрос: Are there any environmental protection agencies or organizations in our republic? Give at least 1 example.