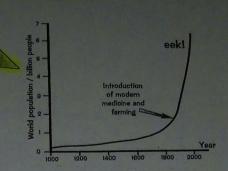
Human Activity and the Environment.

The population of the world is increasing rapidly and this is due to modern medicines which have stopped widespread death from disease.

It's also due to modern farming methods which can provide more food, needed for so many more hungry mouths.

However, the worlds rising human population is causing a greater impact on the environment.



As the human population increases:

- Raw materials, including non-renewable energy resources, are rapidly being used up,
- · More and more waste and rubbish are being produced,
- More pollutants are being produced like phosphates from detergents, nitrates from fertilisers and sulphur dioxide from coal burning power stations.

Use of Fertilisers.

Fertilisers are chemicals containing nitrates and phosphates, which are necessary for modern farming.

Without fertilisers crops wouldn't grow as well, and this would reduce food yields. This is because the crops take nitrates out of the soil and these nitrates must be replaced. Remember nitrates are essential for plant growth.

Problems with Fertilisers.

If too much fertiliser is used, it can be washed out of the soil by rain and find its way into lakes, streams and rivers. This causes the natural concentration of nitrates and phosphates to increase. This is called eutrophication.

- 1. The high concentration of nitrates and phosphates cause the rapid growth of surface plants and algae.
- The algae form a thick layer on the surface of the water. Some plants below the algae layer and algae in the bottom parts of the layer start dying, due to competition for light and stop producing oxygen through
- Oxygen levels in the water decrease.
- 4. Microbes that feed on the dead remains of the plants and rapidly increase in numbers and use up more oxygen from the water in their respiration.
- 5. Oxygen concentrations in the water decrease further, so fish and aquatic animals suffocate, due to lack of oxygen, and die.

