

**The Environment: Our Challenges and Responsibilities: I Can Statements**

1. I can provide details of how the international community has responded to ozone depletion.
2. I can provide details of how the international community has responded to climate change.
3. I can explain the principal international agreements concerning the environment.
4. I can explain how resources, the environment, and human populations are interconnected.
5. I can explain sustainable development.
6. I can evaluate the environmental threats to water resources and how they might be addressed.
7. I can evaluate whether or not Canada should treat water as a resource to be traded.
8. I can describe how human activity is affecting the atmosphere and the ozone layer.
9. I can explain global warming.
10. I can provide details of how we can offset environmental threats at the local, national, and international levels.
11. I can define the following key terms:
  - Deforestation: the process of destroying a forest and replacing it with something else.
  - Global warming: the observed and projected increase in the earth's average temperature due to burning of fossil fuels and deforestation.
  - Acid precipitation: any form of precipitation that is high in sulfuric and nitric acids as a result of pollution in the air.
  - CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: carbon dioxide emissions caused by burning of fossil fuels; largest contributor to global warming.
  - Groundwater: water beneath Earth's surface in underground streams and other forms.
  - Aquifer: an underground layer of rock, gravel, etc., from which water can be drawn for wells and which is a source of springs.
  - Greenhouse gases (GHG): various gases in the atmosphere that absorb and emit radiation, including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone.
  - Ultraviolet radiation: invisible rays from the sun that can cause skin cancer.
  - Ozone layer: a thin layer of ozone in the atmosphere 15 to 30 kilometres above Earth; the ozone layer filters the sun's ultraviolet (UV) rays.

- CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons): chemicals used in coolants, solvents, and aerosol cans that damage the ozone layer.
- Montreal Protocol: an international agreement signed in 1987 to phase out the ozone-depleting chemicals CFCs.
- Kyoto Protocol: an international agreement that sets binding targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions; the average target is 5 percent of 1990 levels by 2008–2012.