Name: Date:

**Pollution Independent Card Sort**

Pollution Card Sort is a quick sensemaking activity to introduce different types of pollution to students. This will also address the student misconception of “plastic pollution” is the main type of pollution that pops up in their thinking. Additional pollution related vocabulary are also presented.

| Pollution Type | Definition | Image |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Water pollution | Chemicals and waste that enter waterways (sometimes from precipitation and air pollutants, other times from soil pollution). All types of water are affected including rivers, streams, lakes, oceans, etc. |  |
| Air pollution | Chemicals released into the air through harmful gases, burning of fuels and other byproducts of human life |  |
| Soil pollution | Chemicals and wastes from humans that accumulate and absorb in the Earth’s surface layer (soil). |  |
| Thermal pollution | Usually affecting water where introduced water has a higher temperature than the natural environment causing harm to organisms and natural habitat conditions. |  |
| Radioactive pollution | the increase in natural radiation levels caused by human activities (power plants, electrical grids, cell phone towers, etc. Radioactive Pollution can take place in liquids, solids, and gases. |  |
| Noise pollution | Excessive noise produced by human activity that negatively impacts different organisms. This noise can come from machinery or other human sources. |  |
| Light pollution | Artificial (human made light) that is often illuminating environments that would otherwise be dark. This light interferes with natural cycles of light and dark in environments and habitats. |  |
| Ozone pollution | Ozone is problematic when it is not found Stratosphere, but rather near Earth’s surface. It is a pollution formed by oxides of Nitrogen and Volatile Organic Compounds. It is a form of air pollution. |  |
| Litter | Trash, such as paper, cans, and bottles, that is left lying in an open or public place. |  |
| Plastic Pollution | Accumulation of human-made, synthetic plastic products in the environment. Plastic was first produced in 1907 and since then plastic pollution has been found in all environments including Mount Everest and the depths of the ocean. |  |
| Particulates | A very small particle, as of dust or soot. Usually this word is used in measuring air pollution. |  |
| Acid Rain | Rainfall with a decreased pH (acidic) due to the chemicals released from the burning of fossil fuels; a type of air pollution; can take different forms like snow and fog. This is usually used to describe air pollution’s connection with the water cycle, where precipitation harms the environment over time. |  |
| Smog | Fog or Haze combined with smoke or other air atmospheric pollutants. This word is usually used in discussing air pollution. |  |
| Oil Spill | the release of a liquid petroleum into the environment, oftentimes the marine ecosystem, due to human activity. Usually this word is used in discussing water pollution. |  |