

Name:_____ Date:_____

HOW DO HUMANS IMPACT OUR ENVIRONMENT?

DIRECTIONS: In this activity, you will analyze how human activity has an environmental impact. Impacts can be positive, negative, or have a combination of both. Some human activities that affect the environment include: agriculture; forestry; ranching; mining; fishing; desalination; and wastewater treatment. These activities can sometimes result in the following negative human impacts: smog; ozone depletion; urbanization; and ocean acidification.

Read through the following scenarios and answer the questions in complete sentences.

A rancher in Texas has several thousand acres that he uses to raise cattle. The cattle frequently spend their day on the same 100 acres. The cattle graze all day, every day.

- 1. What type of human activity would this be?
- What impact does this activity have on the environment? Why? ______
- 3. Determine a solution that would help minimize the negative human impact.

A paper mill contracts with a local individual outside of Savannah, Georgia, to plant and harvest pine trees on their land. The land is cleared, and pine trees are planted on the land. At various intervals, the trees are harvested, and new trees are planted.

1. What type of human activity would this be?

2. What impact does this activity have on the environment? Why?

3. Determine a solution that would help minimize the negative human impact.

In a country in South America, a company has found diamonds under the rainforest. The company has deforested the area and begun to mine the diamonds.

- 1. What type of human activity would this be?
- 2. What impact does this activity have on the environment? Why?

3. Determine a solution that would help minimize the negative human impact.



A farmer in lowa uses nitrogen fertilizer on his corn fields. This helps the corn grow year after year in the same soil. When it rains, however, the fertilizer runs off the field and into the local waterways.

- 1. What type of human activity would this be?
- 2. What impact does this activity have on the environment? Why? _____

3. Determine a solution that would help minimize the negative human impact.

A fisherman and the ship's crew have spent the last 15 years pulling nets and nets of fish out of the Pacific Ocean in the same location. Lately, the fisherman has noticed that his catches are getting smaller and smaller because the area has been overfished.

1. What type of human activity would this be?

2. What impact does this activity have on the environment? Why?

3. Determine a solution that would help minimize the negative human impact.

In some places, humans are making positive strides in changing their negative impact on the environment. Research a positive impact based on one of the above scenarios. Share your research and be sure to include your source(s).

