CLOZE ACTIVITY – INTRO TO ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Name _____ Date: _____

Cloze activity: Use your knowledge of science and the word bank provided to fill in the missing words in each paragraph.

Environmental science is the study of the impact of humans on the _____. We all live in the environment and through the course of our daily activities, we _____and change the environment around us. Some of this influence is good but often times human activities cause _____to the environment. Imagine that an astronaut is in outer space, viewing Earth from far away. From this view, it is clear that the Earth has _____systems with limited resources. The only thing entering Earth continuously is the energy from the_____. Zooming back in, what makes up the environment? The environment consists of all of the living and non-living things around us. One of the _____ observations about the environment is that humans are a part of the natural world. We are also

Damage	Influence	essential	Sun	finite	Environment

dependent on a healthy, robust, functioning planet for our own survival.

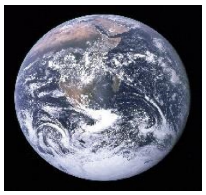
Humans have _____ with the world and all of its systems. Environmental science takes the focus of identifying, examining, and attempting to solve many of the problems that arise from human interaction with the environment. The central _____for human interaction with the environment is the pursuit of natural resources. Humans rely on natural resources to survive and reproduce. No_____, aside from the Sun's energy, is limitless. All are finite, or a fixed supply. However, there are two major classes of resources. _____resources are those that can be replenished by the environment over periods of time in months or decades. Examples include sunlight, water, wind, wave_____, and biomass. _____-renewable resources are formed much more slowly by the environment and may take millennia to be replaced. Examples include mineral ores, coal, natural gas, and crude oil. The issue of resource depletion is a looming crisis for _____as we look to the future.

Resource	Non	energy	humanity	Renewable	motivation	Interactions

The Earth has natural methods of _____its systems of air, water, soil, and organisms. However, as we continue to use these resources at a faster _____than which they can be replenished, we run the risk of pushing certain renewable resources into the non-renewable_____. Some of the natural ecosystem replenishment comes from air/water purification, climate_____, and plant pollination. Life could not survive as we know it without these processes. When humanity _____resources, destroys

habitats, and produces tremendous_____, we collectively degrade and diminish the ecosystem's ability to restore _____ to the overall system of life.

Depletes	Rate	balance	pollution	regulation	realm	Renewing



Perhaps the most important primary source of environmental problems is the _____ in the human population. Every human being added to the planet requires resources; this concept is described as an ecological _____ or the effect that each human has on the environment. Across history, the human population was relatively stable for thousands of years, especially when human societies primarily consisted of _____-gatherers and subsistence farming. However, two major developments spurred the explosion in population growth that we see today. One, the agricultural _____that occurred 10,000 years ago allowed humans to transition from hunter-gatherer lifestyles to an agricultural way of life that allowed humans more free time to _____technological developments and innovations. Two, the industrial revolution that occurred in the mid-1700s allowed for a transition from rural life to urban life, the growth of large cities, and mass production of manufactured goods all made possible by the burning of _____fuels for energy. These revolutions both allowed for increased life expectancies, increased reproduction, improvements in science and medicine, and by extension explosive population growth. Now, the population has grown to over 7 Billion human beings and

Revolution	fossil	support	Hunter	pursue	Footprint	Explosion

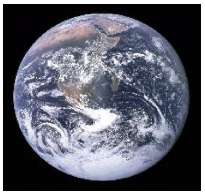
we wonder if the Earth can _____so many lives without being destroyed. Environmental science tries to answer the question of whether or not natural systems of the planet can sustain current and future populations.

Resource _____leads to social and environmental pressures. The "tragedy of the commons" examines how people approach resource usage. The _____refers to environmental spaces that are _____owned, such as government land that is used for grazing or mining. If these "commons" are subject to unregulated_____, the risk is that the resources in these spaces will eventually be_____.

Depleted	Collectively	exploitation	Commons	Consumption

The ecological _____is a concept that was developed to illustrate that humans have a defined and lasting impact on the environment. The ecological footprint can express the environmental impact of an individual or a _____by examining the land, water, air, raw_____, and other resources required to provide for

Materials	sustainability	generations	Population	speculate	Footprint



consumption and waste processing of that individual or population. Some scientists currently _____that humans are depleting our resources 30% faster than the Earth can restore them. This brings focus to the notion of_____, or the idea that we can maintain our environment in a usable form for future_____.

One key feature of environmental science is that this is an _____science, meaning that many other sciences are involved in and connected to biology, geology, chemistry, and_____. Environmental science, in that it focuses on problem solving in the environment, also requires an interdisciplinary _____involving both the natural sciences and the social sciences. It is interesting to note that_____, or what people think, plays a huge role in whether or not people take environmental problems seriously. In general, age, gender, class, race, _____, culture, employment, and educational background play a _____in people's perceptions and awareness of environmental problems.

It's important to distinguish between environmental science and_____.

Role	Physics	nationality	perception	approach	Interdisciplinary

Environmentalism is a social movement dedicated to protecting the natural world from undesirable changes brought about by human_____. The modern era of environmental science is increasingly using scientific means to investigate and _____environmental problems. A brief review of the scientific method is in order as scientists test ideas by critically examining_____. The scientific method is as follows:

1. Identify a _____.
2. Develop a hypothesis.
3. Test the _____ through manipulation of variables.
4. Collect _____as the experiment proceeds.
5. Draw a conclusion based on the data collected _____back on the hypothesis.
6. _____your hypothesis and continue experimenting.

The most important focus for environmental science as we look to the future is to identify and assess environmental problems to achieve the aim of _____.

Hypothesis	Behavior	problem	solve	evidence	data
Revise	sustainability		Reflecting	Environmentalism	