**Vocabulary related to Environment and Ecology**

**climate change**

there has been a growing concern about climate change.

**deforestation**

the cutting down of trees in a large area; the destruction of forests by people.

*Deforestation is destroying large areas of tropical rain forest.*

**desertification**

the process by which land changes into desert.

**disposable products**

describes an item that is intended to be thrown away after use.

*disposable nappies*

**drought**

a long period when there is little or no rain.

*This year (a) severe drought has ruined the crops*.

**earthquake**

a sudden violent movement of the Earth's surface, sometimes causing great damage.

**endangered species**

endangered birds/plants/species animals or plants which may soon not exist because there are very few now alive.

**environment**

the air, water and land in or on which people, animals and plants live.

*Certain chemicals have been banned because of their damaging effect on the environment.*

**extinction**

Many species of plants and animals are in danger of/threatened with extinction (= being destroyed so that they no longer exist)

**flood**

a large amount of water covering an area that is usually dry.

**natural resources**

things such as minerals, forests, coal, etc. which exist in a place and can be used by people.

*Some natural resources, such as natural gas and fossil fuel, cannot be replaced.*

**global warming**

a gradual increase in world temperatures caused by polluting gases such as carbon dioxide which are collecting in the air around the Earth and preventing heat escaping into space.

**greenhouse effect**

an increase in the amount of carbon dioxide and other gases in the atmosphere which is believed to be the cause of a gradual warming of the surface of the Earth.

**green peace**

an organization that fights for the protection of the environment.

**renewable energy**

describes a form of energy that can be produced as quickly as it is used.

*renewable energy sources such as wind and wave power*

**ozone layer**

a layer of air high above the Earth, which contains a lot of ozone, and which prevents harmful ultraviolet light from the sun from reaching the Earth.

*Scientists believe that there is a hole in the ozone layer.*

**pollution**

damage caused to water, air.... by harmful substances or waste.

**recycle waste**

to collect and treat rubbish to produce useful materials which can be used again.