

Read

Before you read

1. Skim the paragraphs to find the main idea in each one.
2. Write a heading for each paragraph.



Water that people and animals need to stay alive must be clean. However, a lot of the water that we use is polluted, which is why urban areas have water **purification** plants.

Many **rural** and informal settlements do not even have **sanitation** systems. They use rivers and dams as their source of water.

If you were to follow the path of a river, the causes of water pollution soon become clear. Along the river, you might find settlements that use the river for washing clothes and factories that use rivers as chemical waste disposal sites. Eventually, rivers flow into the sea. The seas are at the heart of our water cycle.

Word list

purification – making something clean by removing dirty substances.

sanitation – a system to supply clean water and to collect and get rid of sewerage and waste

After you read

3. Answer the following questions.
 - a) What is a water purification plant?
 - b) Why are rural and informal settlements more likely to be affected by a lack of clean water?
 - c) Look at the picture. Write down two ways in which the river is being polluted.
 - d) Why is the sea an important part of the water cycle?