An ecosystem is a network of living beings and their interactions with their environment. We humans often, intentionally or unintentionally, introduce pollutants into ecosystems, which can have cascading impacts across the systems. For each picture, write a few sentences about how each pollutant entered into the ecosystem impacts creatures across the system.

**For example:**

Chemicals in sunscreen have recently been shown to harm corals. How can harming corals impact the sharks in this reef?

Fish, who depend on the coral for food, no longer have anything to eat. And sharks, who depend on the fish as food, no longer have anything to eat.
Acid rain from air pollution can make trees sick, or even kill them. If acid rain killed these forest trees, how would that impact the animals in this picture?

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Waste from our trash in the landfill has leaked into the groundwater, polluting the soil. How might this affect the plants and animals in this farmer’s nearby field? If you eat these tomatoes on your ham sandwich, how might the soil pollution affect you?

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Each year, more boats buzz through the ocean. How do you think noise pollution from the boats’ motors could impact dolphins, who use sound to communicate? How could affecting dolphin communication impact the fish they eat?

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Many insects attracted to lights at night meet their deaths in the jaws of spiders or by banging or burning their bodies on lights. As people move lights deeper into rural areas, how could diurnal songbirds, which mostly eat insects, be affected by light pollution?
Can we PLEASE watch the stars now?

Let’s do it!