

## TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Transport is the movement of goods and people, whereas communication is the sending of messages. In Eastern Africa, there are different forms of transport and communication found in different parts.

### Forms of Transport used in Eastern Africa

The forms of transport used in Eastern Africa are the **road**, **airways**, **waterways** and **railways**. These forms of transport are at different stages of development.

#### (a) Roads

Roads are the most developed form of transport in Eastern Africa. In each country, there are all-weather and dry-weather roads that connect to different parts of the countries. Roads easily connect the Eastern African countries, as there are roads from one country to another. More roads are being built in each country, thereby opening up all parts of the region. Efforts are being made to have more kilometres of all weather roads. Kenya and Uganda have the best road network, while Sudan has a rather poor road network in the south. Efforts are being made to improve the type of roads between the countries such as Kenya to Somalia; Kenya to Ethiopia and Kenya to Sudan.

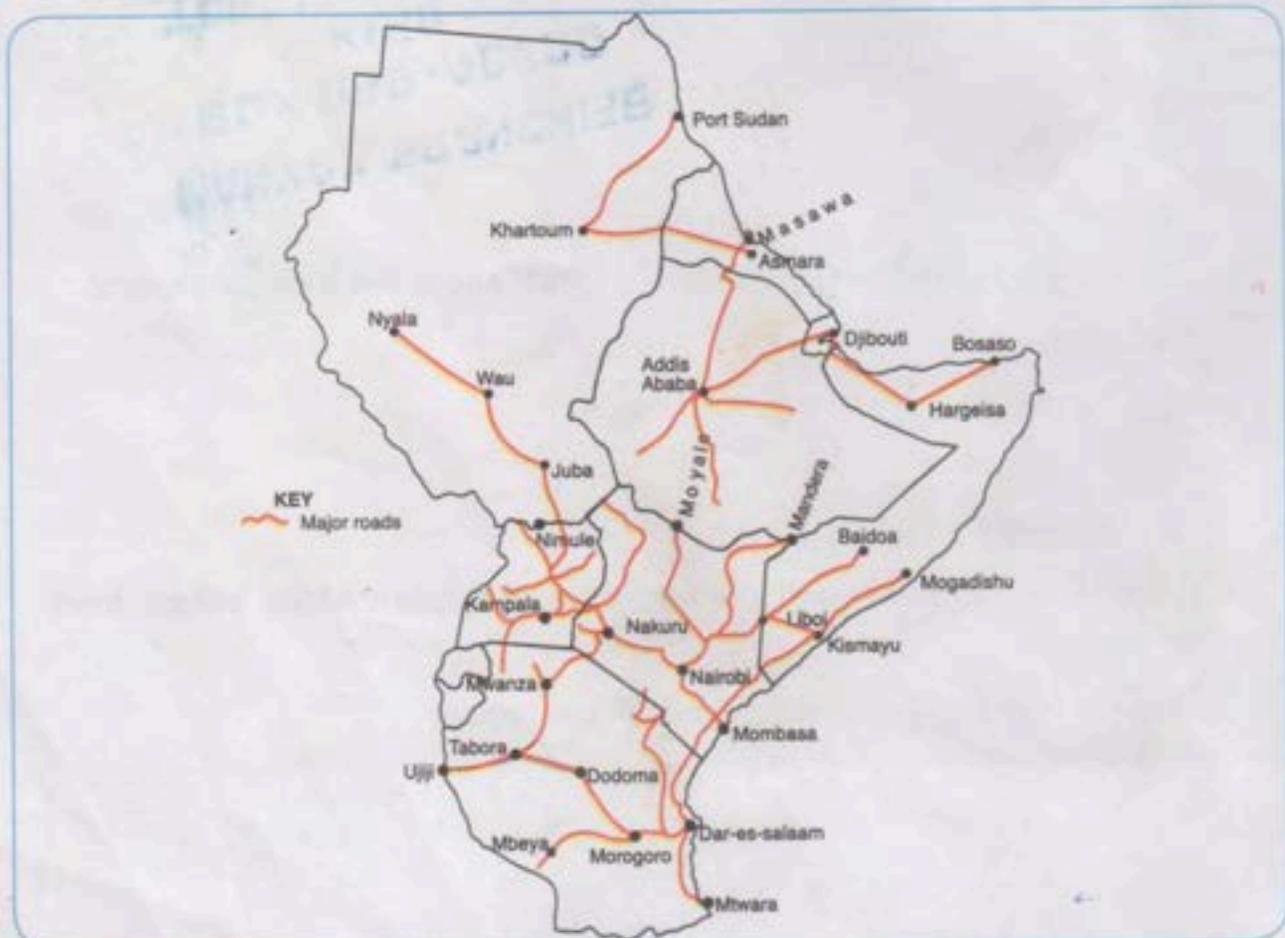


Fig. 4.14: The road network in Eastern Africa

### (b) Airways

There are now more international airports in the region, which connect the major towns to the rest of the world. More airports and airstrips have been developed even in the remote areas. This is because air transport has become more popular as it is the fastest means of travel.



### (c) Railways

All the countries in the region have railways except Somalia. The other countries have not had an improvement on their railways, such as increasing the kilometres of railways. After independence, Tanzania built the **Tazara Railway Line** to connect it to the landlocked Zambia.

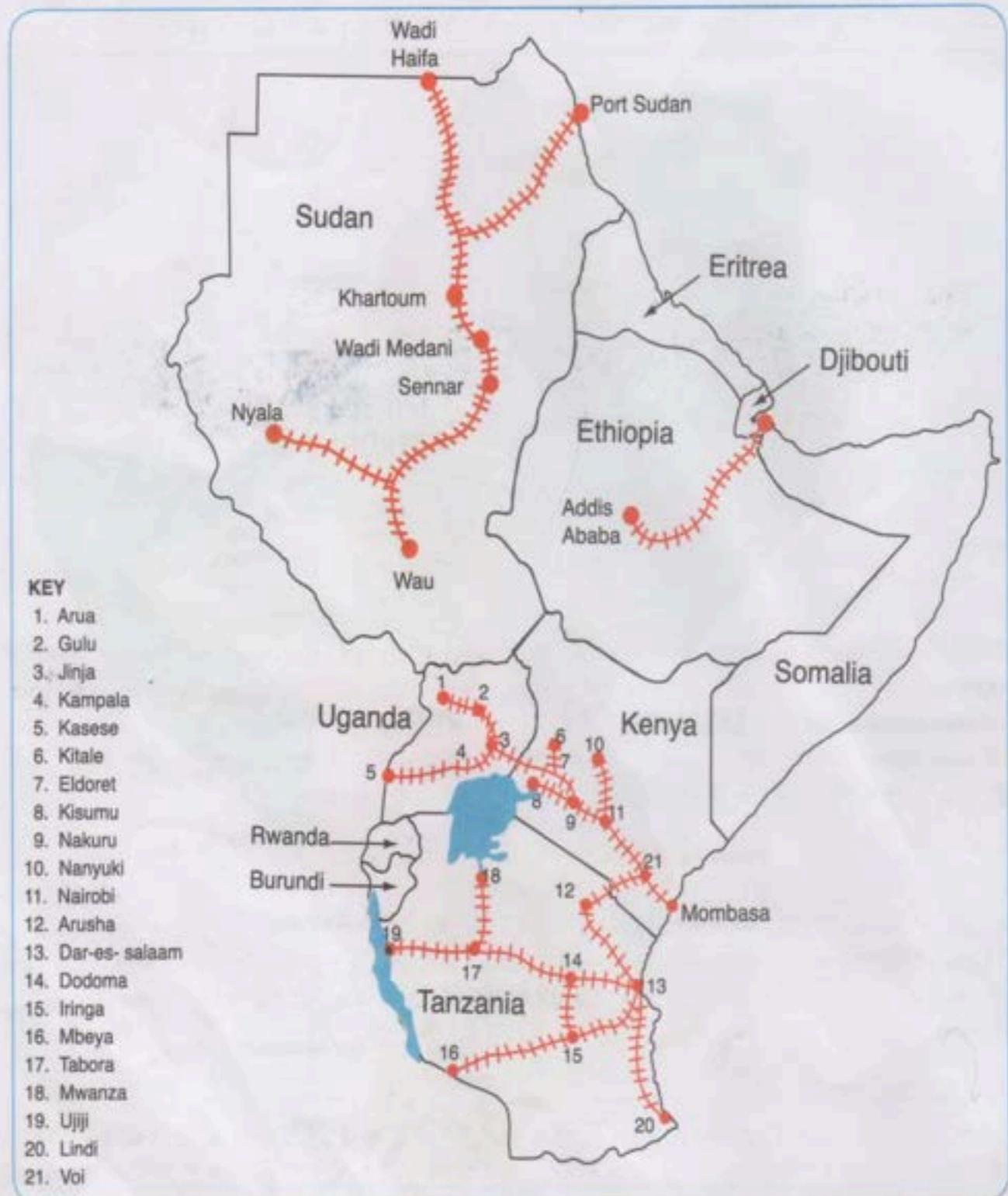


Fig. 4.16: The railway networks of Eastern Africa

#### (d) Waterways

Inland waterways have reduced overtime. There were steamers on Lake Victoria joining the major ports on the lake, but their movement has declined. Ethiopia does not have waterways since it does not have access to the sea. It also does not have large lakes. Sea transport is steadily increasing in its importance as there are more seaports being developed and more goods being imported and exported through them.



Fig. 4.17: Sea Transport

#### (e) Pipelines

There has been an increase in the use of pipelines to transport oil and water. There is an oil pipeline from Mombasa to Kisumu and Eldoret. There are plans to extend it to Kampala.

### Problems Faced in Transport in Eastern Africa

Transport development in Eastern Africa faces the following problems:

#### (a) Lack of enough finances

Most of the countries do not have enough money to build new forms of transport. They have to rely on funds from other countries. Airports and railways need a lot of money to build. Consequently there are few kilometres of railways in each of the countries.

#### (b) Poor management

Some of the forms of transport are poorly run, leading to their collapse. The airways in Uganda, Tanzania and Somalia collapsed several years ago because of poor management. The railways in the countries have not improved because they are poorly run.

### (c) Competition

The forms of transport face competition from one another, thereby reducing their development. For example, the railways which are slow are facing competition from the roads.

### (d) Insecurity

The development of roads between the countries has been slowed down by the civil wars taking place in some of the countries. This is so especially for the roads between Uganda and Sudan; Kenya and Ethiopia; Kenya and Somalia; and Ethiopia and Somalia.

### (e) Accidents

There are too many accidents on the roads, resulting in many losses and deaths. Accidents consume a lot of the countries' revenue through lost labour.



Fig. 4.18: A road accident scene

### (f) Water hyacinth

Waterways on Lake Victoria are declining because of the presence of the water hyacinth. This is a weed which floats on the water, making the movement of ships and boats difficult. The weed has affected navigation on the Kenyan ports because people took too long to remove it, so it has continuously spread to many parts of the lake.



*Fig. 4.19: The water hyacinth on Lake Victoria*

## **Means of Communication in Eastern Africa**

There has been an improvement in the forms of communication in the region, thereby making it easier for information to reach the people required. These developments include:

### **(a) Telephone**

Most of the countries have installed modern forms of telephones which do not need the assistance of an operator. The phones are fixed on the streets in the towns to enable the people to make calls easily. Mobile telephones have been made cheap, enabling many people to have them.



*Fig. 4.20: Mobile phone user*

### (b) Radio

Many radio stations have been opened in each of the countries. They are able to reach many people fast. The stations pass different messages to the people. The radio is the most widely used means of communication.

### (c) Postal services

In each country, there are postal services, which help people to send and receive letters. Additionally there are **courier** services, which assist people to receive and send large parcels. These services are mainly used by businessmen because they are fast.



Fig. 4.20: Postal courier services

### (d) Newspapers

Many newspapers are being printed in each of the countries. They are found in the major towns. The newspapers written in different languages are on different topics affecting the people.

### (e) Internet

The use of the computer has increased in the region. Computers are now found in all areas where there is electricity. People use the computer to send messages through the e-mail, which means **electronic mail**. Sending messages by e-mail is cheap and fast. Using the computer, we are able to get information about events taking place in the world.



Fig. 4.21: People using the internet

#### (f) Television

The use of the TV is in many parts of the region, apart from where there is insecurity. There are many TV stations in the major towns, showing different programmes and passing to the people different messages.

### Problems Facing Communication in Eastern Africa

#### (a) Inadequate finances

The setting up of telephones, radio and TV stations is expensive. This reduces their number and where they are found in each country.

#### (b) Lack of electricity

Most of the forms of communication use electricity, which is not found in all parts of the region.

#### (c) High expenses

Telephones, televisions and computers are expensive. This reduces the number of people who can own and use them.

#### (d) Illiteracy

In many parts of the region, many people are not able to read and write. This makes it difficult to sell newspapers, for only a few of the people will read them.

### (e) Insecurity

The setting up of the forms of communication requires an area that is safe so as to avoid damage and theft of the equipment. Insecurity in some parts of the region has discouraged people from installing communication equipment.

## Benefits of Improved Transport and Communication Systems in Eastern Africa

Improved forms of transport and communication have many benefits to the people and the countries of Eastern Africa. These include:

### (a) Promotion of trade

The presence of good roads, railways and airways, enables traders to transport their goods from the source to the markets faster. The use of modern telephones and the computer helps the traders to communicate to suppliers and buyers, and thus receive and send their goods faster. Where the means of transport is good, goods will be available in any part of the country.



Fig. 4.22: Border town with vehicles crossing

### (b) Development of agriculture

Good means of transport enables farmers to get their farm inputs and sell the farm produce easily. Most farmers get discouraged when their produce fails to reach the market because of bad roads. Farmers lose a lot of money as the goods go bad.

### **(c) Development of industries**

Where there are good means of transport and communication, many industries are located there, because the raw materials can get to the factory on time and the finished products can reach the market easily.



*Fig. 4.23: An Industry*

### **(d) Promotion of tourism**

Improved roads enable tourists to visit the tourist attractions found in different parts of the region. Improved airports enable visitors from different parts of the world to visit the region. More tourists in the region means more foreign exchange earnings.

### **(e) Employment opportunities**

The various forms of transport and communication offer employment opportunities to thousands of people in each country. The money earned by the people helps to improve their standard of living.

## WORK FOR YOU TO DO

1. Explain the difference between transport and communication.
2. The roads that are used throughout the year are called \_\_\_\_\_ roads.
3. Which of the two countries below have the best road network?
  - A. Tanzania and Ethiopia
  - B. Kenya and Tanzania
  - C. Uganda and Tanzania
  - D. Kenya and Uganda
4. Name the country in Eastern Africa that does not have waterways.
5. Name the country in Eastern Africa that does not have railways.
6. State four problems facing transport in Eastern Africa.
7. Why is it that Newspapers are not found in many parts of Eastern Africa?
8. Which one of the forms of communication can reach many people?
  - A. Radio
  - B. Newspapers
  - C. E-mail
  - D. Telephone
9. Explain three ways in which an improved transport and communication will be of benefit to Eastern Africa.

## INDUSTRIES

The countries of Eastern Africa are not highly industrialised. Many of them rely on agriculture as their main source of income. Many people are involved in agriculture than they are involved in industries.

### Major Industries in Eastern Africa

The countries of Eastern Africa are not highly industrialised because industries that were set up were to process the crops grown by the white settlers such as tea, coffee, wheat, sisal and pyrethrum. Other industries were set up to process dairy and meat products from the white farms. Kenya is the leading industrial nation in

the region as it has manufacturing, processing, assembling and service industries than the other countries. The following are the major industries in Eastern Africa:

### (a) Processing industries

Processing industries are involved in the first stage of changing raw materials from one form to another. Processing industries are also known as **primary industries**, because they produce goods that are used in other industries. Processing industries are the most widespread in Eastern Africa, because they are mainly involved in processing agricultural goods such as crops and animal products. Factories for processing tea, coffee, sisal, milk and fish are located near the source of the raw material because the materials are heavy. Factories that process fruits, meat, leather and bakeries are mainly found in the major towns.



Fig 4.25: Dairy cattle

### (b) Manufacturing Industries

Manufacturing industries also known as **secondary industries** mainly rely on processed goods to make final products. For example, sugar from sugar factories may be taken to another factory to make sweets, bread or soft drinks. Some manufacturing industries use raw materials directly to make final products. For example, crude oil in an oil refinery is worked on to produce final products such as petrol or diesel.

The Eastern African countries do not have many manufacturing industries because they are expensive to put up. Some of the manufacturing industries include oil refining in Mombasa, Kenya and Port Said in Sudan; cement making in Athi River and Mombasa, in Kenya, Tororo and Hoima in Uganda and Tukuyu in Tanzania; textile making in Khartoum Sudan, Athi River in Kenya and Dar-es-salaam in Tanzania; paper making in Webuye; glass industries in Mombasa and Nairobi and medicine making in Nairobi and Khartoum.



Fig. 4.26: A Paper manufacturing industry

### (c) Assembly industries



Fig. 4.27: Bicycles being assembled

### (d) Cottage industries

Cottage industries are involved in making handcrafts and other simple items using locally available materials. They are mainly located in the rural areas where the raw materials are found. These industries include pottery, wood carving, stone carving and weaving of baskets and mats. Blacksmiths burn special stones to get iron, which they use to make swords, spears, knives, arrows, and jingles.

Assembly industries use different types of materials that have been made in different industries to make new items. For example, parts of vehicles, radios, bicycles and TV sets are put together to make the items. Vehicles are assembled in Thika, Nairobi and Mombasa, bicycles are assembled in Nairobi, Mombasa and Dar-es-salaam. Radio and TV sets are assembled in Nairobi and Dar-es-salaam. Assembly industries are the least widespread in Eastern Africa. They require a highly skilled labour force, which is not common in the area.



Fig. 4.28: Jua kali products

### (e) Service industries

Service industries provide services rather than goods to people. They are the most widespread industries in Eastern Africa, as they are found in urban and rural areas, particularly in densely populated areas. Service industries include banks, insurance, water and electricity supply, public service vehicles, schools, hospitals and fire brigades. The repair of machines is part of service industries such as ship repairing in Mombasa and Dar-es-Salaam, vehicle garages, watch and radio repairing.

The most common cottage industries in the urban centres is the *jua kali*, where things are made or repaired in the *open air* or in simple sheds. The people use waste iron material to make cheap items such as jikos, basins, boxes, wheelbarrows, pans, *jembes*, drums and *pangas*.



#### Activity 4.5

1. Which industry is most widespread in Eastern Africa?
2. Why are assembly industries not widespread in Eastern Africa?

### Importance of Industries in Eastern Africa

There are many benefits gained from establishing industries, that is why many countries of the world are making efforts to set up industries. The following are some of the benefits of industrialisation:

#### (a) Employment Opportunities

Industries create employment for the local people. The money earned helps them to improve their standard of living.



Fig. 4.29: People working in a factory

### **(b) Earning of income**

The government earns a lot of money from industries through licence fees and taxes. The earnings are used to provide services to the people.

### **(c) Earning of foreign exchange**

When goods produced in the country are exported, the country earns foreign exchange, which is used to pay for imports. Some of the countries in the region have set up Export Processing Zones (EPZ) to make goods for export only.

### **(d) Use of resources**

The development of industries encourages the use of locally available resources.

### **(e) Self - sufficiency**

Many industries in a country make it self-sufficient in industrial goods. This reduces reliance on importing goods, which makes the country save on foreign exchange.

### **(f) International relations**

Goods exported to other countries increases trade between the countries, thereby helping to create good relations between them.

### **(g) Promotion of agriculture**

An increase in the number of industries processing agricultural raw materials encourages farmers to produce more since there will be demand for the goods.



*Fig. 4.30: Agricultural goods being delivered to a factory*

### **(h) Improvement of transport**

The presence of industries in an area will encourage the building of different forms of transport to enable raw materials to get to the factory and goods to leave the factory to the market.

## Problems Facing Industries in Eastern Africa

After making efforts to establish industries in the region, the industries are facing the following problems:

### (a) Cheap imports

There are imports being brought into the countries which are cheaper than the locally produced goods. Many people buy the cheaper goods, thereby making the local industries reduce the number of workers. Some of the industries end up closing down.

### (b) Workers' strikes

In some of the industries, the workers have been going on strike thereby affecting the work in the factories. The industries lose a lot of money when the workers stop working. Some workers damage the factories when they go on strike.



Fig. 4.31: Workers on strike

### (c) Cost of energy

Some of the industries find the cost of electricity to be high, making them to earn less profit.

### (d) Shortage of finances

Some of the industries lack enough capital to enable them expand their activities.

### (e) Shortage of raw materials

There are times when locally available resources are in short supply, forcing the industries to import their raw materials. Imported raw materials are expensive thereby reducing the profits to be earned.

## Impact of Industries on the Environment

The presence of some industries in an area greatly affects the people, plants, water and animals. Some industries release gases, liquid or solid particles that pollute the area around the factory. The following are some of the ways in which industries affect the environment:

### **(a) Air pollution**

Some factories such as Pan Paper Mills at Webuye release gases that make breathing difficult. Some of the gases are harmful to the human body.



*Fig. 4.23: Emissions from a factory*

### **(b) Noise pollution**

Some factories make very loud noises which may damage ears if they are not protected. This is common in steel making mills.

### **(c) Water pollution**

Some factories pour their waste waters into rivers and lakes without treating it. Such water is poisonous to the fish and animals in the rivers. Drinking of such water may cause diseases in people.

### **(d) Displacement of people**

Whenever industries are to be built in an area, people living in the area are asked to move away so as to create space for the industries.

### **(e) Destruction of land**

Some industries like those engaged in mineral mining, e.g., flourspar and diatomite, create huge holes on land destroying valuable farmlands.



Fig. 4.33: Effects of mining on land

### WORK FOR YOU TO DO

1. Why did the colonial governments establish industries in the colonies?
2. Name three products made in industries during the colonial days.
3. Give reasons why there are more industries in Kenya than in the other Eastern African countries.
4. Below are benefits of industrialisation, which one is not?
  - A. Use of local resources
  - B. Self-sufficiency
  - C. Cheap imports
  - D. Improvement of transport
5. Explain how the following affect industries in Eastern Africa:
  - (i) Strikes by workers
  - (ii) Cheap imports
6. Explain how industries affect the environment.

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