Air Pollution

* An air-pollutant is something in the wrong place in the wrong concentration

Primary pollutants:

These are pollutants that arise from:

1.) Humans (activities from humans, VOC’s)

2.) Earth’s natural processes (dust storms, volcanoes, SO2)

Secondary pollutants

These are primary pollutants that mix together

* + Ex.) Acid Rain (Car exhaust and dust mixed with water)
* Photochemical: smog activated by light
  + This is smog formed by the mixing of primary and secondary by light
* Industrial: (Gray-Air smog) caused by sulfuric acid drops in the air
  + Caused by burning coal, rarely a problem today

Fixes:

* + Smoke stack scrubbers (machine that sprays water)
  + Electro static Precipitators (electrically charged dust)
* **Acid deposition**: When dry chemicals such as SO2 mix with water they create acid rain
* Harmful ecological effects
  + Destroys aquatic environments (next slide)
  + Ruins tree foliage and makes them more susceptible to disease, winter and summer
* Harmful to humans
  + - Respiratory illnesses (asthma and bronchitis)
    - Weakens structures (buildings and statues)
* Indoor air pollution usually is a greater threat to human health than outdoor air pollution.
  + People spend 70-80% more time indoors then outdoors
* According to the EPA, the four most dangerous indoor air pollutants in developed countries are:
  + Tobacco smoke.
  + Formaldehyde.
  + Radioactive radon-222 gas.
  + Asbestos