

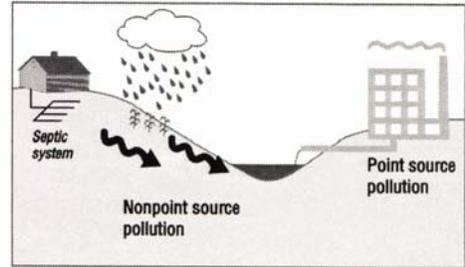
## Watershed Connections

Student Activity:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Pollution Sources

The quality of our water depends on the care that humans give it. The type and amount of pollutants that are disposed of impact both surface and ground waters. There are two basic categories of pollutants: point and non-point source. Pollutants can be separated into two categories, point source and nonpoint source, depending on how they get into the water. *Point source* pollution refers to contaminants that enter the water directly, usually through a pipe. Examples are sewage treatment plants and industrial facilities, which have permits to discharge prescribed quantities of potential contaminants into a specific stream. *Nonpoint source* pollution, by contrast, originates across the watershed and enters the water at locations that cannot be easily identified. Examples of nonpoint source pollution include sediments, nutrients, pesticides, oil, and other chemicals. Point and nonpoint source pollution are illustrated in the figure. Nonpoint source pollution, which is not regulated, is the primary cause of water quality degradation in the U.S.



Answer the following questions about pollution sources.

#### PART 1 – POLLUTION SOURCES

1. Consider the types of pollution shown below and check the appropriate box, indicating if it is primarily a point source or non-point source of contamination.

Type of pollution	Point source	Nonpoint source
Pet wastes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Factories	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sewage treatment plants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Household cleaners not disposed of properly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pesticides used on lawns and gardens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oil leaks on driveways	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fertilizer runoff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Livestock waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illegal dumping of hazardous liquids (for example down a storm drain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Landfills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soil erosion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Watershed Connections

2. What are the potential pollution threats to the water in your area (town, county, etc.)?

Potential Point Sources –

Potential Urban and Residential Nonpoint Sources –

Agricultural Nonpoint Sources –

3. What are some ways you can reduce water pollution?

