



07 - VOCABULARY: GLOBAL PROBLEMS



- 1 - One critical issue is **preserving** and **protecting the environment**. The burning of **fossil fuels** (*oil, coal, and natural gas*) produces **greenhouse gases** that **deplete the ozone layer** and result in **global warming** and **climate change**.
- 2 - Some scientists believe that we have already **done irreparable damage** to the planet, and now we are suffering the consequences of **rising sea levels** and increasingly frequent **natural disasters** such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and tornados.
- 3 - A number of **animal species have gone extinct**, and many more are **endangered**. To reverse this trend, we must invest in **clean energy** with **renewable resources** and utilize manufacturing methods that are not **harmful to the environment**.
- 4 - There are still many regions of the world where children **die of hunger/starvation**. Unfortunately, **extreme poverty** is common in the rural areas of **developing countries**, where the population often suffers from **food shortages** and **lack of access to clean water**.
- 5 - In the cities, **homeless people** sleep on the streets if there is not enough room in local **homeless shelters**. There are also many families **on the margins of society** who are **living below the poverty line** and struggle to make ends meet every month.
- 6 - Although many governments create **welfare programs** to **alleviate poverty**, the widening gap between rich and poor suggests that poverty may never be completely eradicated.
- 7 - Poverty and underdevelopment contribute to a host of additional problems as well. For example, many people die of **preventable diseases** because they have no access the **safe and effective vaccines** that exist.
- 8 - A number of large corporations use **child labor** in the manufacturing of their products, as poor families may feel they have no other option for survival. In addition, young women from **disadvantaged backgrounds** are prime targets for **human trafficking** and **sexual exploitation**.