

In the process of studying I had been using **the following methods**: studying literature and web sites on the problem, using the monitoring, description, analysis, comparison, synthesis, classification, systematization.

In my work I examined the theoretical and practical aspects of free verse. I studied in details the history of free verse, its distinctive features.

The practical approach and my own experience allowed me to come to the following conclusions:

1) free verse provides the author with complete freedom to express his deepest feelings and thoughts, without putting in a limiting framework;

2) helps to get rid of stereotypes associated with the presence of a strict rhythm;

3) when writing a free verse poem, it should not be assumed that it was read as prose. To do this, you need to fill the words with internal music without using rhymes. I would say that the best way to write free verse is to read the works of famous British poets who wrote in the form of free verse and to observe the subtle techniques used by poets.

For me personally, reading and composing free verse is a great relaxation and even an outlet. Free verse gives me an adequate way to express myself, and doesn't allow my creativity to turn into a routine.

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THE BASIC ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

In our project, we'd like to consider the problem of environmental protection. The topic of our research is "The Basic Ecological Problems of the Republic of Belarus». The reason why we have chosen this topic is quite evident – our planet is on verge of global ecological catastrophe. Belarus as a part of the world also suffers from certain ecological problems.

So, the object of our research is to study the ecological situation in Belarus.

The aims of our research are the following:

- to study the ecological situation in the world;
- to examine the ecological situation in Belarus;
- to highlight the main ecological problems in Belarus;
- to find what can be done to save the country from disaster;
- to study the opinion of the pupils of our school about ecological

problems.

The methods of our research are:

- the study of literature on the topic;
- working with the statistics;
- opinion poll.

In the course of our research we found out that among the most urgent environmental problems are the ozone layer destruction, the greenhouse effect, acid rains, toxic pollution of the atmosphere, deforestation, contamination of underground waters by chemical elements, destruction of soil, threat to flora and fauna.

The ozone layer preserves our Earth. It stops some of the ultraviolet radiation from the sun. Too much ultraviolet radiation causes sunburn and skin cancer.

Here you can see the image of the largest Antarctic ozone hole. Scientists first discovered the hole in 1973 and since then it was getting bigger. You can see the maximum it reached in 2007.

Another terrifying problem is the greenhouse effect, or global warming.

Carbon dioxide which we breathe out, and which is produced by burning coal, oil, petrol, gas or wood, works like the glass in a greenhouse. It allows heat to get in, but it doesn't allow much heat to get out. So, the atmosphere becomes warmer. If you look at this diagram you'll see that the level of carbon dioxide since the start of industrial revolution has raised by half. The next map shows the increase of global surface temperature.

The environmental problems are very acute in all industrially developed countries due to a great number of big factories and plants and Belarus is not an exception.

One of the biggest ecological problems in our country is air pollution.

The leading sources of air pollution in Belarus are:

- 1) Transportation, such as cars, buses and trains.
- 2) Fuel combustion for heating houses, office buildings, and factories.
- 3) Electric power plants which burn natural gas or fuel oil.
- 4) Wildfires.

The chemical and petrochemical industry is one of the dominant sectors of the industrial complex in Belarus. All in all, there are 70 enterprises and organizations that produce oil, mineral fertilizers, chemical fiber and filament, tyre, glass-fiber products, vanishes and paints, plastic goods. Three of them are situated in Novopolotsk, near Polotsk. They are: plants "Polymir" and "Naftan" in Novopolotsk, plant "Steklovolokno" in Polotsk. They produce a wide range of pollutants, which badly influence

our health.

As far as Polotsk and Novopolotsk are concerned, the results of stationary observation in 2019 estimated the state of atmospheric air of these cities as poor. According to the diagram shown, in 2019 the total quantity of emissions amounted to about 62 thousand tons compared to 57,8 thousand tons in 2018.

Another urgent problem in Belarus is water pollution. Nowadays there are a lot of factors, which worsen the quality and the state of water. Here are several leading sources of water pollution:

1) Livestock farms. In rural areas groundwater is polluted by livestock farms, the use of mineral fertilizers and toxic chemicals for irrigation.

2) Chemical pollution from motor transport.

3) Industrial waste. About half of the water sources in our country are polluted with industrial waste. There are a lot of plants in our country, which pour their waste into rivers and lakes.

4) Human activity. People leave rubbish such as bottles, paper, food after their resting, sometimes they throw it into water.

One more important problem is the aftereffects of the nuclear accident in Chernobyl. It's widely known that Belarus suffered in this accident more than other countries. This disaster has been influencing our country greatly. You see on this map, that as the result of that accident 18 per cent of the territories of our Republic were contaminated by radioactive elements. The agriculture of our country suffered great losses. More than 20% of the population has also suffered.

Now let us move on to the practical part of our project. We investigated the environmental awareness of the pupils of our school. 80 pupils have been asked, among them second-, seventh-, ninth- and eleventh-formers.

The following questions were asked:

1) Do you think that our planet is polluted? 72 pupils answered positively compared to 8 who answered "no".

2) When you are outside, where do you always put your litter? 61 pupils put their litter in a special rubbish bin, 13 pupils put their litter in a pocket, and only 6 of them throw their litter on the ground.

3) What is the most urgent ecological problem of our city? 36 pupils think that it is air pollution, 32 pupils think that it is water pollution and 12 pupils consider deforestation as the most urgent ecological problem.

4) What influences our ecology most of all? 38 pupils answered «factories», 25 pupils answered «transport», 17 pupils answered «new technologies».

5) What do you do to protect our nature from pollution? 43 pupils take care of plants and animals, 31 pupils don't litter in the streets, and 6 pupils do nothing.

During our research we found out, that the majority of children in our school are environmentally aware. They take care of nature and help to protect it from disaster.

So, what should we do to protect nature?

- 1) broaden our ecological education;
- 2) increase our efforts to find a non-polluting source of energy to avoid further nature damage;
- 3) reduce wastes and dumps of harmful substances into the air;
- 4) make good filters for power stations, factories and plants;
- 5) find the way to reduce the level of contamination of the part of the Republic after the Chernobyl disaster.
- 6) protect and extend green zones around big cities.
- 7) use natural resources more economically as they are not unlimited.

We should always remember that the Earth is our home, that is why we must take care of it, for our sake and for the next generations. Let's keep our environment clean.

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BREST FORTRESS IS NOT THE ONLY LANDMARK IN THE MILLENNIAL CITY OF BREST

In 2019 the city of Brest celebrated its millennium. This event attracted a lot of tourists and it continues to attract people. Coming to this city, many people mistakenly believe that Brest is a small town in which the main attraction is Brest Fortress. Without doubt it's one of the most prominent icons of our town. But in fact each corner of the town has something interesting to be seen and to be proud of.

The aim of our research is to work out the route with the less popular among citizens and tourists' landmarks of Brest but which are worth visiting and to prove that Brest Fortress is not the only landmark of the city as many tourists think.

With the help of the questionnaire we have identified the list of well-known and unknown (or less-known) sights of Brest.

The main attention was devoted to the least popular places:

5. Nemtsevichi Manor