

What is Pollution?

Materials that are released into our air, water or soils can sometimes make our environment dirty or unsafe. These materials are called pollutants, and are produced by humans and industry.

Examples are;



Chimney smoke



Car exhausts



Litter on the street

Pollutants can be;



Harmful to our environment or cause us to cough or wheeze

Animals and plants are able to clean some types of pollutants, they are called biodegradable pollutants e.g. grass clippings, vegetables.

Some pollutants can stay in our environment for 100s of years, for example;

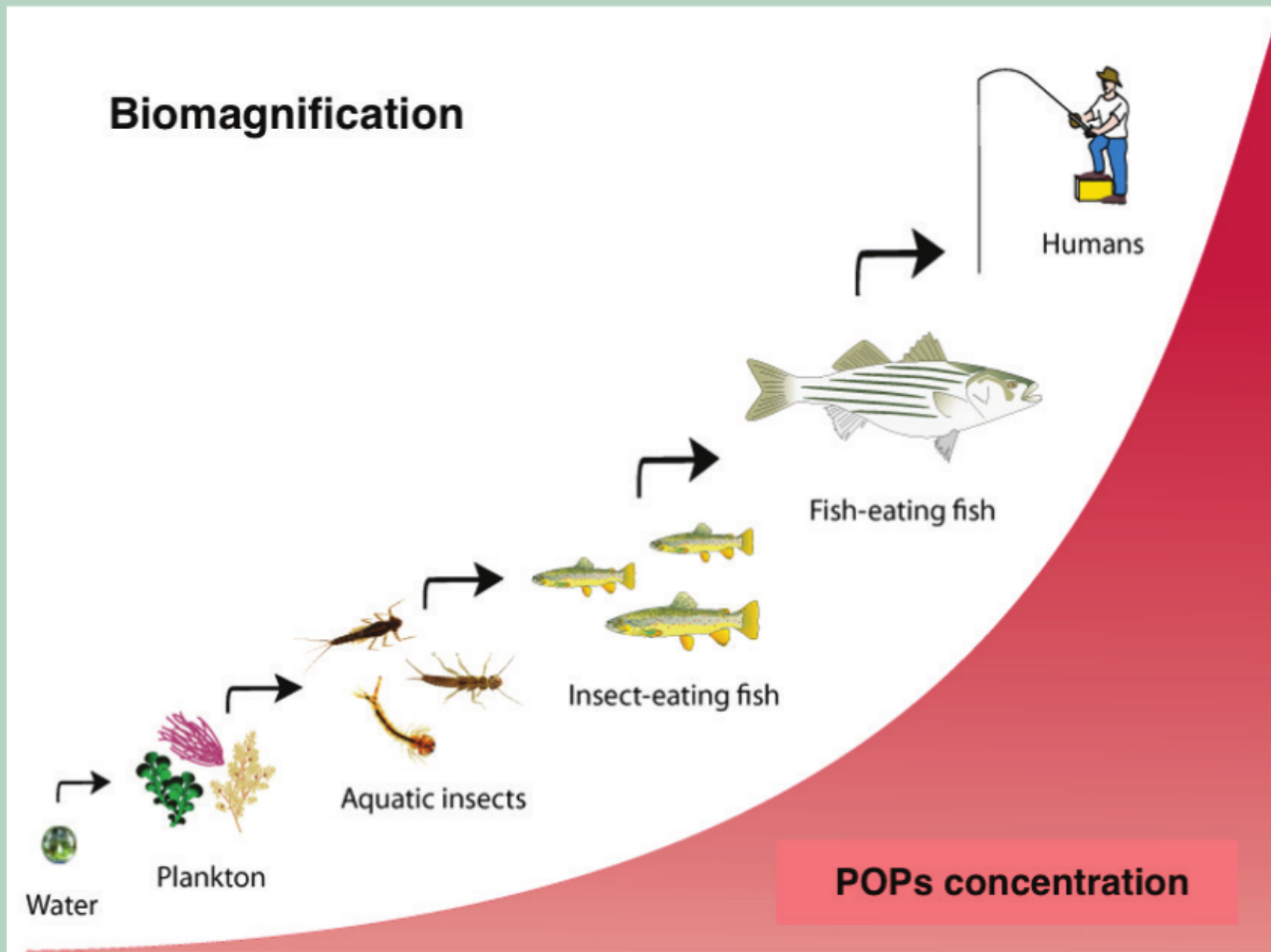


450 years



10-20 years

Some of these pollutants are called ***persistent organic pollutants*** or ***POPs***. When POPs enter a river or lake, they are taken up by the plants in the water, which are eaten by insects which are then eaten by fish. This is called ***biomagnification***.



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POPs can travel far away from where they are produced, and have been found in remote parts of our world e.g. the Arctic.

HOW CAN WE REDUCE POLLUTION?

Reduce

Try to avoid buying pre-packaged foods

Reuse

Try and reuse plastic bags, paper envelopes, glass jars

Recycle

Recycle plastics, papers and metals

