**Section 9.2: Changing Population Trends**

**Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.**

In many of the poorest countries, wood is the main fuel source. When populations are stable, people use fallen tree limbs for fuel, which does not harm the trees. When populations grow rapidly, deadwood does not accumulate fast enough to provide enough fuel. People begin to cut down living trees, which reduces the amount of wood available in each new year. Parts of Africa, Asia, and India have been cleared of vegetation by people collecting fuelwood. A supply of fuel ensures that a person can boil water and cook food. In many parts of the world, water taken directly from wells or public supplies is not safe to drink because it may carry waterborne parasites or other diseases. The water can be sterilized by boiling it, but fuel is needed to do so. Also, food is often unsafe or harder to digest unless it is cooked. Without enough fuelwood, many people suffer from disease and malnutrition.

**Read each question and write the answer in the space provided.**

1. The main source of fuel for many poorer countries is

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1. People use fallen tree limbs for fuel when their population is

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1. If a population grows quickly, people begin to cut down for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ fuelwood.
2. Public water supplies are unsafe in some parts of the world because the water may carry \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Explain how an area of land can become cleared of vegetation because a population grows.