

AIR POLLUTION

NOTES FOR TEACHERS

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

Get children to brainstorm sources of pollution and sources of clean air. Write down their ideas on the main whiteboard (see below for a list of sources of clean air and sources of pollutants both indoors and outdoors). Create posters with clean air sources on half the A3 paper. Draw pollutants on the other half. Pupils could work individually or in pairs.

Alternatively, students could:

- Do class/school surveys of how children get to school. In what ways might they encounter air pollution on their journey to school?
- Make designs and models of clean air streets and bad air streets'
- Make models of clean air houses and interiors.
- Research issues outlined at the end of these notes.

Clean Air sources

Outside

Most coastal areas e.g. walking by the sea

Trees

Forests

Gardens big and small

National Parks, e.g. Peak District

Moorland

Mountains

Hills

Rural areas e.g. fields

Farmland mostly

Footpaths

Riversides

Inside

Indoor plants

Sources of Air Pollution

Outside

Diesel eg buses lorries trains

Train stations

Motorways

Busy roads

Pavements next to busy roads

Cars running on petrol or diesel

Idling cars or buses (engines on but stationary vehicles e.g. outside schools)

Aeroplanes

Coaches

Car parks

Busy built up areas e.g. hospitals

Schools at opening and closing times

Coal fires or wood burning stoves

City centres - worse in poorer areas

Industrial Farms

Poor quality rented housing

Smoke from factories or workshops

Inside

Smoking cigarettes or cigars

Wood or coal fires

Some building materials e.g. insulation materials

Isocyanates - Grenfell Tower fire

Some cleaning chemicals - non toxic alternatives available

Some flame retardents in mattresses, furniture, carpets etc

Formaldehyde used in glues etc

Paint - Volatile Organic Compounds

Damp or mouldy walls in a house

Some Candles

Aerosols eg air freshners

Some flowers

Topics or Organisations for students' research

What exactly is Air Pollution?

What are the health issues from air pollution?

(Cycling regularly in traffic can cause adult onset asthma)

Which groups of people suffer more from air pollution?

Allergy UK - What can we learn from this group?

What is Sick Building Syndrome?

What is the Trade Union Clean Air Network?

Is Biomass good for air pollution?

What is air pollution like in your area? In your village/town/city?