

Air Pollution

Humans and animals all need to breathe. Sadly, the air that we breathe in is not always as clean as it should be. Over 7 million people around the world die early each year due to air pollution and nine out of ten of us do not breathe clean air. Air pollution is therefore having a serious impact on the earth and on our health. Something needs to be done to reduce the amount of pollution that is in our atmosphere.



What is Air Pollution?

Air pollution means that there are harmful chemicals in the air that can be very bad for our health.

There are five main ways in which air becomes polluted.

Household Pollution

We burn fossil fuels to heat our homes and to cook our food. This releases dangerous chemicals into the atmosphere.



Industrial Pollution

Large factories are a major cause of air pollution. They burn coal to produce energy and then pump dangerous materials into the environment.



Transport Pollution

Car and vehicle fumes are a big cause of air pollution. Diesel engines are the most dangerous as the fumes contain gases that cause harm to the human body.



Farming Pollution

Farm animals give off a gas called methane which damages our climate. The burning of animal waste also releases dangerous gases into the environment.



Waste Pollution

Rubbish pollutes the atmosphere. Waste products that are left in landfill sites naturally release harmful chemicals, even if they are not burned.



World Environment Day

World Environment Day is held every year on 5th June. It is the biggest yearly event that focuses on the environment and the need to take better care of it. In 2019, the theme is 'Air Pollution'. China are hosting it but over 100 countries will be involved. The aim is to encourage governments, industries and individuals to do more to improve the quality of the air that we all breathe.

What Can We Do to Reduce Air Pollution?

There are lots of things that people can do to help improve the quality of the air that we breathe. These include:

- using the car less; walk or cycle more;
- eating less meat;
- turning the heating down or putting on a jumper;
- driving electric cars;
- reducing the amount of plastic that you buy and throw away.



Questions

1. How many people around the world die early because of air pollution? Tick **one**.

- 9 million
- 7 million
- 2 million
- 7 thousand

2. Fill in the missing words.

Air pollution is therefore having a _____ impact on the earth and on our health.

3. Draw lines to match the types of pollution with how it is caused.

Household

burning animal waste releases gases into the atmosphere.

Industry

car fumes are a major cause of air pollution.

Transport

burning fossil fuels to heat our homes releases chemicals.

Farming

rubbish and plastics in landfill sites release chemicals.

Waste

factories pump dangerous materials into the environment.

4. When is World Environment Day?

5. What is the theme of World Environment Day in 2019? Tick **one**.

- Plastic Pollution
- Climate Change
- Respect for All
- Air Pollution

6. Which country is hosting this year's World Environment Day? Tick **one**.

- India
- UK
- China
- Australia

7. Name at least **three** ways in which we can all help to reduce air pollution.

Answers

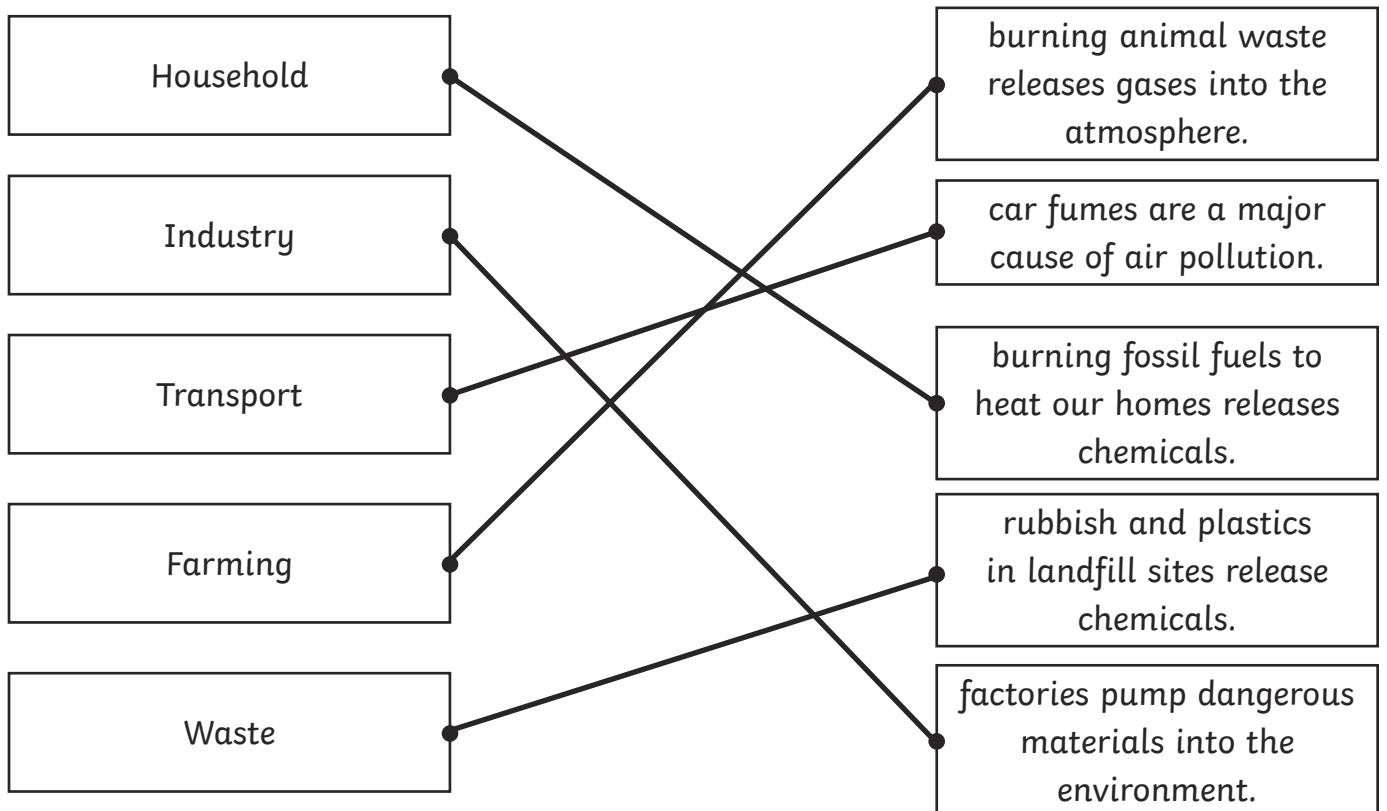
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- India
- UK
- China**
- Australia

7. Name at least **three** ways in which we can all help to reduce air pollution.

Accept any three of the following:

- **driving less and walking more**
- **eating less meat**
- **turning down the heating**
- **driving electric cars**
- **reducing how much plastic you buy**

Air Pollution

Living creatures all need to breathe in order to survive. Sadly however, the air that we breathe in is not always as clean as it should be. Over 7 million people around the world die early due to air pollution and nine out of ten of us are forced to breathe unclean air. Air pollution is therefore having a serious impact on the environment and on our health. We all need to take action to reduce the amount of pollution that is in our atmosphere and to prevent air quality from getting worse.



What is Air Pollution?

Air pollution refers to the presence of harmful or poisonous chemicals that occur in the air around us. There are 5 main causes of pollution:

- **Household**

When we heat our homes and cook food, we most commonly use fossil fuels such as coal or gas. When they are burned, these fuels release dangerous chemicals into the atmosphere.



- **Industrial**

Large coal-burning factories are a major cause of air pollution. They pump dangerous materials into the environment which has contributed massively to climate change.

- **Transport**

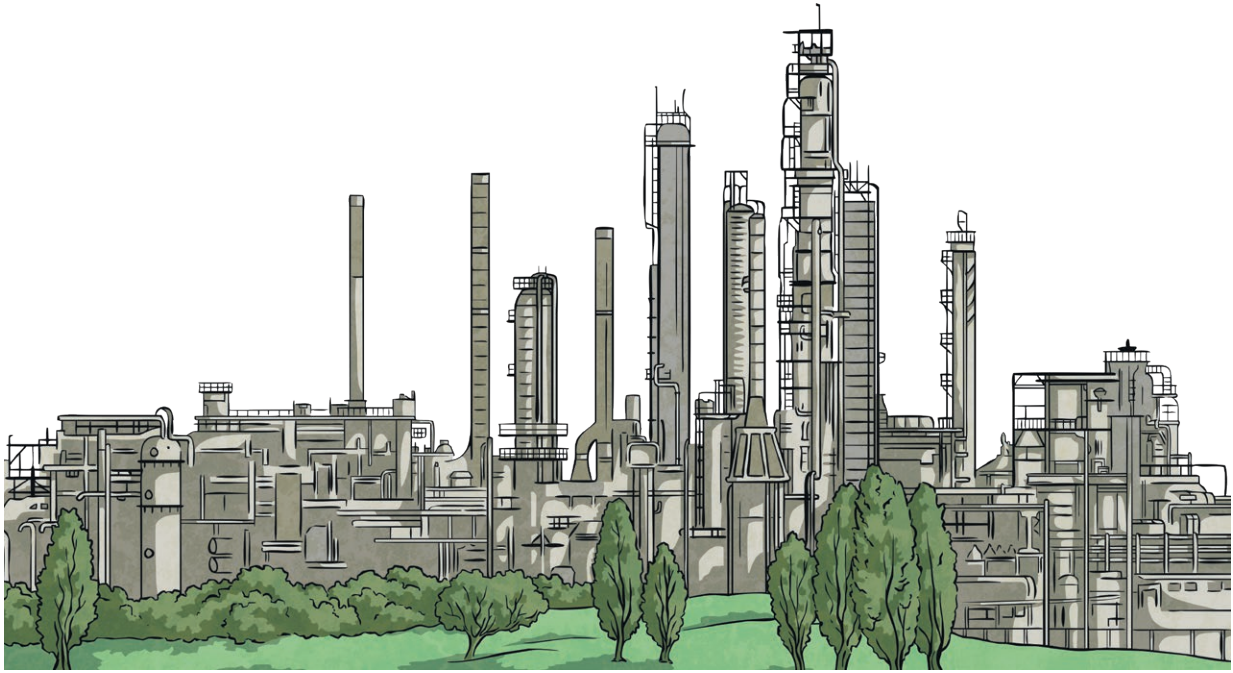
One quarter of all air pollution is believed to have been caused by pollution from vehicles. Diesel engines are the most dangerous as the fumes contain soot and other materials that cause harm to the human body.

- **Agricultural**

Cattle and other farm animals give off a gas called methane which damages our climate when released. Animal waste also releases dangerous gases into the environment whether it is burned or not.

- **Waste**

When rubbish is burned, it pollutes the atmosphere. Even if it isn't burned, waste products naturally release harmful chemicals, especially plastic products.



World Environment Day

On 5th June 1974, the United Nations held the first World Environment Day. It is the biggest yearly event that focuses on the environment and the need to take better care of it. In 2019, the theme is 'Air Pollution'. China are hosting it but over 100 countries will be involved. The aim is to encourage governments, industries and individuals to do more to improve the quality of the air that we all breathe.

What Can We Do to Reduce Air Pollution?

If we all make small changes to our everyday lives, we can help to improve the quality of the air that we breathe and reduce the amount of air pollution that is currently damaging the environment. We can:

- make less journeys in the car;
- eat more plant-based products and less meat;
- turn the heating down a degree or two;
- start driving electric cars;
- reduce the amount of plastic that we buy and throw away.

Questions

1. What do living-creatures all have in common?

2. How many people around the world do not breathe clean air? Tick **one**.

- seven out of ten
- nine out of ten
- ten out of ten
- two out of ten

3. In your own words, explain why it is important that we all try to reduce air pollution?

4. What term is used to refer to the type of pollution caused by animals and animal waste?
Tick **one**.

- Industrial pollution
- Transport pollution
- Agricultural pollution
- Household pollution

5. When was the first World Environment Day held? Tick **one**.

- 5th June 1947
- 5th July 1974
- 5th June 2019
- 5th June 1974

6. What is the theme for World Environment Day in 2019?

7. What do the United Nations hope that this year's World Environment Day will do? Explain your answer fully.

8. Which of the following is a suggested way to help reduce air pollution? Tick **one**.

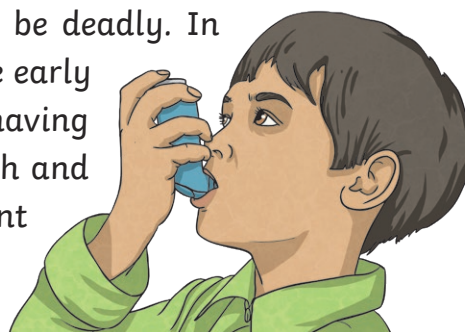
- driving more
- turning the heating down
- driving diesel cars
- buy more plastic

Answers

1. What do living-creatures all have in common?
They all need to breathe to survive.
2. How many people around the world do not breathe clean air? Tick **one**.
 - seven out of ten
 - nine out of ten**
 - ten out of ten
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3. In your own words, explain why it is important that we all try to reduce air pollution?
Pupil's own response, such as: It is important that we all try to reduce air pollution because it is having a serious impact on our health and on the environment. All living things need air to breathe but it is not always very clean therefore we need to improve the quality of it to keep us healthy.
4. What term is used to refer to the type of pollution caused by animals and animal waste? Tick **one**.
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 - Transport pollution
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7. What do the United Nations hope that this year's World Environment Day will do? Explain your answer fully.
Pupil's own response, such as: The United Nations hope that this year's World Environment Day will encourage governments, industries and individuals to do more to improve the quality of the air that we breathe.
8. Which of the following is a suggested way to help reduce air pollution? Tick **one**.
 - driving more
 - turning the heating down**
 - driving diesel cars
 - buy more plastic

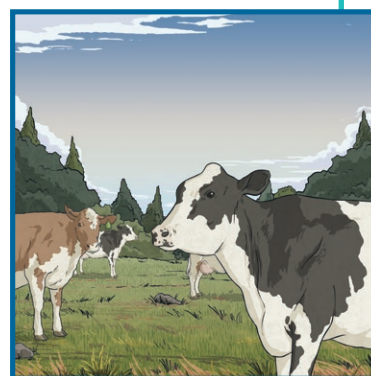
Air Pollution

The air that we breathe is not as clean as it should be. In fact, nine out of ten of people from around the world breathe in polluted air. Air pollution can cause both long and short-term effects on health and for people who have asthma and lung conditions, it can even be deadly. In fact, over 7 million people around the world die early due to air pollution. Air pollution is therefore having a serious impact on the earth and on our health and something needs to be done to reduce the amount of pollution that is in our atmosphere.



Causes of Air Pollution

Air pollution is a mix of harmful and poisonous pollutants that occur in the air around us, such as carbon dioxide, methane and soot. Most of the air pollution is caused by the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas. Understanding the different types of pollution is important because it occurs everywhere. Most households burn fossil fuels to heat their homes and to cook their food. This releases



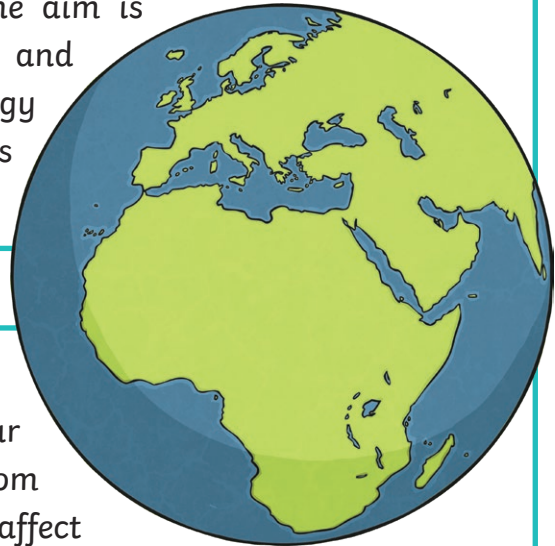
dangerous chemicals into the atmosphere. Large coal-burning factories are a major cause of air pollution. They pump dangerous materials into the environment which has contributed to climate change. One quarter of all air pollution is believed to have been caused by pollution from the vehicles that we drive. Diesel engines are the most dangerous as the fumes contain soot and other materials that cause harm to the human body. Livestock, such as cows, give off a gas called

methane which damages our climate when released. The burning of animal and agricultural waste also releases dangerous gases into the environment. When rubbish is burnt, it pollutes the atmosphere. Even if it isn't burned, waste products naturally release harmful chemicals, especially plastic products.



World Environment Day

On 5th June 1974, the UN (United Nations) introduced World Environment Day. This annual event is an opportunity for the whole world to consider how we can protect and enhance the world in which we live. China will be hosting this year's event and over 100 countries will be involved. The theme for 2019 is 'Air Pollution' and the aim is to encourage governments, industries and individuals to explore using cleaner energy and environmentally-friendly technologies to reduce air pollution.



Making Changes

Every time we drive to school, dry our hair, heat our homes or buy products from the supermarket, we make choices that affect air pollution. Therefore, we can all do our part to reduce air pollution and to improve the quality of the air that we breathe. Making a few small changes in our everyday lives will make a positive impact on improving the quality of air that we breathe. For example, we could all reduce the number of journeys we make in the car and walk or cycle instead. We could eat more plant-based products or by simply turning down the heating a degree or two, we will also use less energy. Another way to reduce air pollution is to stop driving petrol and diesel cars and start driving electric ones instead.

Questions

1. Name **three** chemicals and substances that are in polluted air.

2. What are coal, oil and natural gas? Tick **one**.

- chemicals
- fossil fuels
- waste products
- medicines

3. How much of all air pollution is caused by transport pollution? Tick **one**.

- 90%
- half
- one quarter
- three quarters

4. Which type of engine is the most dangerous?

5. Explain in your own words how agriculture contributes to air pollution. Explain your answer fully.

6. **Find** and **copy** a word that shows that World Environment Day occurs every year.

7. What do the United Nations hope will happen as a result of the 2019 World Environment Day? Explain your answer fully.

8. Explain how we are all responsible for contributing to air pollution and what we can do to reduce it.

Answers

1. Name **three** chemicals and substances that are in polluted air.
carbon dioxide, methane, soot
2. What are coal, oil and natural gas? Tick **one**.
 - chemicals
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3. How much of all air pollution is caused by transport pollution? Tick **one**.
 - 90%
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 - one quarter**
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4. Which type of engine is the most dangerous?
diesel engines
5. Explain in your own words how agriculture contributes to air pollution. Explain your answer fully.
Pupil's own response, such as: Agriculture contributes to air pollution in two ways. Firstly, animals such as cows give off methane which is bad for the environment and secondly, agricultural waste releases dangerous gases when it is burned.
6. **Find and copy** a word that shows that World Environment Day occurs every year.
annual
7. What do the United Nations hope will happen as a result of the 2019 World Environment Day? Explain your answer fully.
Pupil's own response, such as: The United Nations hope that the 2019 World Environment Day will encourage governments, industries and individuals to look at using cleaner energy (instead of fossil fuels) and environmentally-friendly technologies in order to reduce air pollution.
8. Explain how we are all responsible for contributing to air pollution and what we can do to reduce it.
Pupil's own response, such as: We are responsible for contributing to air pollution because when we do everyday things such as drying our hair, driving our cars or heating our homes, we are releasing chemicals into the environment. We can all make small changes to help reduce air pollution such as using the car less, turning the heating down and driving electric cars.