

Over many years, air pollution has reached high levels. During the Industrial Revolution, thick smoke and soot from factories clung to buildings and hung in the air of major cities. People became aware of the health issues caused by this type of pollution.

Air pollution can come in the form of dangerous gases, solid particles, and liquids. The most dangerous air pollution comes from human-made sources. The two biggest sources are automobiles and power plants that burn fossil fuels. Dangerous chemicals such as carbon dioxide are sent into the air. You can help lower outside air pollution by walking or taking your bike to nearby places instead of riding in a car.

It is impossible to completely get away from pollutants. Your home even has air pollution! Things such as mold and fumes from your carpet are the cause. People can make their homes healthier by changing filters on air conditioners and heaters often and by cleaning out air ducts.



Project:

Compare particle matter found in several locations around your school or home.

Materials

- 5 x 7-inch index cards or cardstock
- transparent tape
- black marker
- magnifying glass
- microscope (optional)
- pencil
- Air Particle Matter Recording Sheet

For the Teacher

Make one copy of the Air Particle Matter Recording Sheet (page 4) per student.

Directions

1. Cut a 1-inch square out of the centers of two index cards.
2. Cover each opening with tape, so that the sticky part is exposed through the hole.
3. Choose two spots inside or outside to place your cards.
4. Write the name of location #1 on one card next to the opening. Do the same thing with the other card for location #2.
5. Tape your cards to a wall, post, or some other structure in the locations you have chosen. Make sure the sticky side of the tape faces out. Remove them after one hour.
6. Observe the particle matter stuck on each sticky square with a magnifying glass or microscope and fill out your recording sheet, comparing your data.