

# Lesson 10



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# A Breath of Fresh Air?

## Background Information

We need air to breathe. We need air to live. Air supports all life on Earth. But, the quality of air in some places is getting worse. Air pollution is harmful chemicals and other materials found in the air. It can come from natural sources. Or, it can come from human-made sources.

Natural sources of air pollution might be smoke from wildfires. It might be ash and smoke from a volcano. Human-made sources make much more air pollution than natural ones. One of these sources is the burning of fossil fuels. Emissions from vehicles and factories are another.

It is unhealthy to breathe polluted air. It can make breathing difficult. This is especially true for people who have asthma and other respiratory diseases.

Another serious effect of air pollution is the depletion of the ozone layer. This layer protects all living organisms from the rays of the sun that are harmful.

So, what can we do to help solve the problem? Here are a few ideas to think about:

- Ride a bike or walk to where you need to go.
- Plant a tree. Trees need carbon dioxide to live. They help recycle some of the polluted air.
- Reduce, reuse, and recycle! If factories make fewer things, the air will be cleaner.

## Analyzing Science

- What are some of the causes of air pollution?
- Why is air pollution a problem around the world?
- ▲ Why would any solution for eliminating air pollution involve people around the world?


## Nonfiction Writing Prompt

Write about a source of air pollution in your community. Is it natural or human-made? How is this pollution being produced? Explain your answers and include as many details as possible.

## Fiction Writing Prompt

Write a story about a new vehicle that releases no pollution into the air. What type of vehicle is it? What does it look like? Do people want to use it? Include the answers to these questions in your story.

## Scientific Challenge



How does air pollution relate to the topic of climate change? Research this question on the Internet or at the library. Create a poster detailing your answer. Use pictures and diagrams on your poster to display your data.