

Exploring Pollution



Of course you already know
a little about pollution.



What is pollution?

a pollutant is something that enters the environment and messes up the "natural" balance of the ecosystem.

But sometimes, the pollution is in the air and it's harder to see.

LA



LA Smog



If your window is open, you might be able to smell the pollution.

But sometimes the air can be dirty and you can't see it or smell it. So you need another way to tell if the air is dirty.

This is why the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) developed the Air Quality Index.

Air Pollution and Health

One thing the AQI does is help you understand what the air quality around you means to your health. Each of the AQI colors has a word or phrase to go with it that tells you something about health. These are the **colors** and the **health words** that go with them.

AQI Colors	Health Word(s)
Green	Good
Yellow	Moderate
Orange	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
Red	Unhealthy
Purple	Very Unhealthy
Maroon (usually not shown)	Hazardous

Let's Play a Review Game!

Point Source Pollution



Pollution coming from a single, identifiable source.

Non-point source pollution



Occurs as water moves across the land or through the ground and picks up pollutants on its way to a river.

Impervious surface - something hard (concrete, brick) that water can not soak into.



This is a map of the impervious surfaces around the Potomac River. What do you notice?

