

# Air Pollution Webquest

## 6-12th Grade




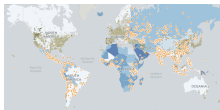
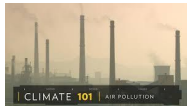
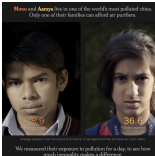
Resources developed by San Mateo County Office of Education's (SMCOE)

Environmental Literacy and Sustainability Initiative (ELSI) • Last updated May 2021

**Directions:** Utilize the resources in this WebQuest to gain a better understanding of current issues related to air pollution. Explore the resources in any order, and consider the suggested reflection prompts:

- What are 1-2 facts from each resource that struck you as important or surprising?
- What is your emotional reaction to the information provided in these resources?

## Air Pollution

<p><b>Our World in Data:</b> <i>Our World in Data is a non-profit website that brings together the data and research on the powerful, long-run trends reshaping our world.</i> This entry presents a global-level overview of air pollution: trends in emissions from historical through to the present day, the health and mortality burden and risk from air pollution, and discussion of some of the key correlations and determinants of the severity of pollution and its impacts.</p>	 <p><b>Our World in Data</b></p> <p><a href="#">Air Pollution</a></p>
<p><b>Pollution Data:</b> Pollution is the process of making land, water, air or other parts of the environment dirty and not safe or suitable to use. Utilize the <a href="#">interactive map on Pollution.org</a> to get a better sense of the current status of air pollution on a global scale.</p>	 <p><a href="#">Pollution.org Map</a></p>
<p><b>National Geographic:</b> This feature explains how pollutants in the air are not always visible and come from many different sources. <a href="#">Air Pollution Explained</a></p>	
<p><b>New Delhi Case Study</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dec 2020 <a href="#">NY Times Feature</a> comparing the lives of two children in New Delhi who have different exposure to air pollution</li> <li>• 2019 News Articles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <a href="#">Car Rationing for Air Pollution Crisis</a></li> <li>◦ <a href="#">India Air Pollution at Unbearable Levels</a></li> <li>◦ <a href="#">New Delhi Choking on Smog with No End in Sight</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	 <p><a href="#">Who Gets to Breathe Clean Air in New Delhi?</a></p>
<p><b>Air Pollution News Articles:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3/2024: <a href="#">Air Pollution Toxic Soup after L.A. Wildfires</a> (NYT March 2024)</li> <li>• 8/2024: <a href="#">The Conversation - Colorful diagrams show how air quality has changed since 1850</a></li> <li>• 2/2021: <a href="#">Harvard study - Air Pollution Kills 1 in 5 People</a>, and <a href="#">'Invisible killer': fossil fuels caused 8.7m deaths globally in 2018, research finds</a></li> <li>• 8/2019: <a href="#">Air Pollution Can Kill Even When it Meets Guidelines</a></li> <li>• 5/2019: <a href="#">The Evidence is Strong - Air Pollution Connected to Dementia</a></li> <li>• 5/2019: <a href="#">Small Improvements in CA Air Quality Make a Big Difference for Asthma Rates</a></li> <li>• 4/2019: <a href="#">Air Pollution is Doing More Than Killing Us - Air Pollution Linked to Crime</a> (watch the embedded three minute video)</li> <li>• The Guardian: <a href="#">Air pollution could kill 160,000 in the next decade</a> (1/12/20) <a href="#">Air Pollution Rising in Cities at an Alarming Rate</a> (5/2016), <a href="#">Air Pollution Rates are Double Previous Estimates</a> (3/2019)</li> <li>• 9/2018: <a href="#">Global estimates of mortality associated with long-term air pollution</a></li> <li>• Sep 2016: <a href="#">TIME - Air Pollution Costs the Global Economy Trillions</a></li> </ul>	

## Air Quality Monitoring - Local and Regional

- Global: [AirVisual](#)
- US and CA: [Air Now](#) (includes good overviews to ozone and particulate matter)
- Bay Area: [Air Quality Monitoring](#) and [Spare the Air](#)
- [Purple Air](#)

→ The [California Air Resources Board](#) also has a wealth of information about air quality issues including mandates, reports, curriculum resources, etc.

