

1

Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. Name some natural causes of air pollution. _____

2. In which ways do humans cause air pollution? _____

3. What is our atmosphere made up of? _____

4. When and where did air pollution, as we know it today, start? _____

5. Look at the map on page 1. Which countries or areas have the most deaths from air pollution? _____
6. What is carbon monoxide and where can you find it? _____

7. Why are CFCs so dangerous? _____

8. Why do we need natural ozone in the atmosphere? _____

9. What does nitrogen oxide cause? _____
10. What does acid rain lead to? How does it affect us? _____

11. Why don't we always know where acid rain comes from? _____

12. Name a few things that you can do to help stop air pollution? _____

13. What does the word smog mean? _____
14. Why was smog a big problem in London? _____

15. Which cities have smog problems today? _____

AIR POLLUTION – EXERCISES

2

Match the words on the left with the definitions on the right.

A	air conditioning			dry powder that is made up of small particles of dirt
B	pollution			material like gas, oil or coal that can be burned to get energy
C	confused			when a volcano sends out lava and gases
D	decade			line of light that comes from the sun
E	dust			all the things that make our environment dirty
F	eruption			to set free
G	nitrogen			everything that comes from the sun
H	release			a machine with a motor in it, used to transport people and goods
I	soil			a system that makes the air in a building or in a car cooler
J	vehicle			gray metal that melts easily and is very poisonous
K	cancer			a colorless gas that makes up most of the Earth's atmosphere
L	fuel			group of people who travel to work together in one car
M	lead			everything that comes from the waves of the ocean
N	ray			to make something too hot
O	carpool			the top part of the Earth on which plants grow
P	solar			a period of ten years
Q	overheat			a very dangerous disease in which cells in the body start to grow in an uncontrolled way
R	tidal			if you can't think clearly or don't know what's happening

AIR POLLUTION – EXERCISES

3

Match the beginnings of the sentences with the sentence endings.
There are TWO endings you will not need.

A	The first signs of air pollution		that destroy the ozone layer
B	The air we breathe is made up of		has become a major problem for our environment
C	In the last few decades air pollution		air pollution in Great Britain has risen
D	Even though most air pollution is created by humans		go back to the 19 th century
E	Carbon monoxide is a colorless gas		because of acid rain
F	CFCs are gases		can help keep our environment clean
G	Older people and children should not go outdoors		by producing more carbon dioxide
H	Buildings corrode and soil can be destroyed		because they produce oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide
I	We can help limit air pollution		78% nitrogen and 21% oxygen
J	We should preserve trees and forests		produce smog
K	Dirt particles and fog on the ground		when there is too much ground ozone in the air
L	Organizing carpools or using public transport		it can also have natural causes
			that makes us confused and tired
			by using cleaner forms of energy

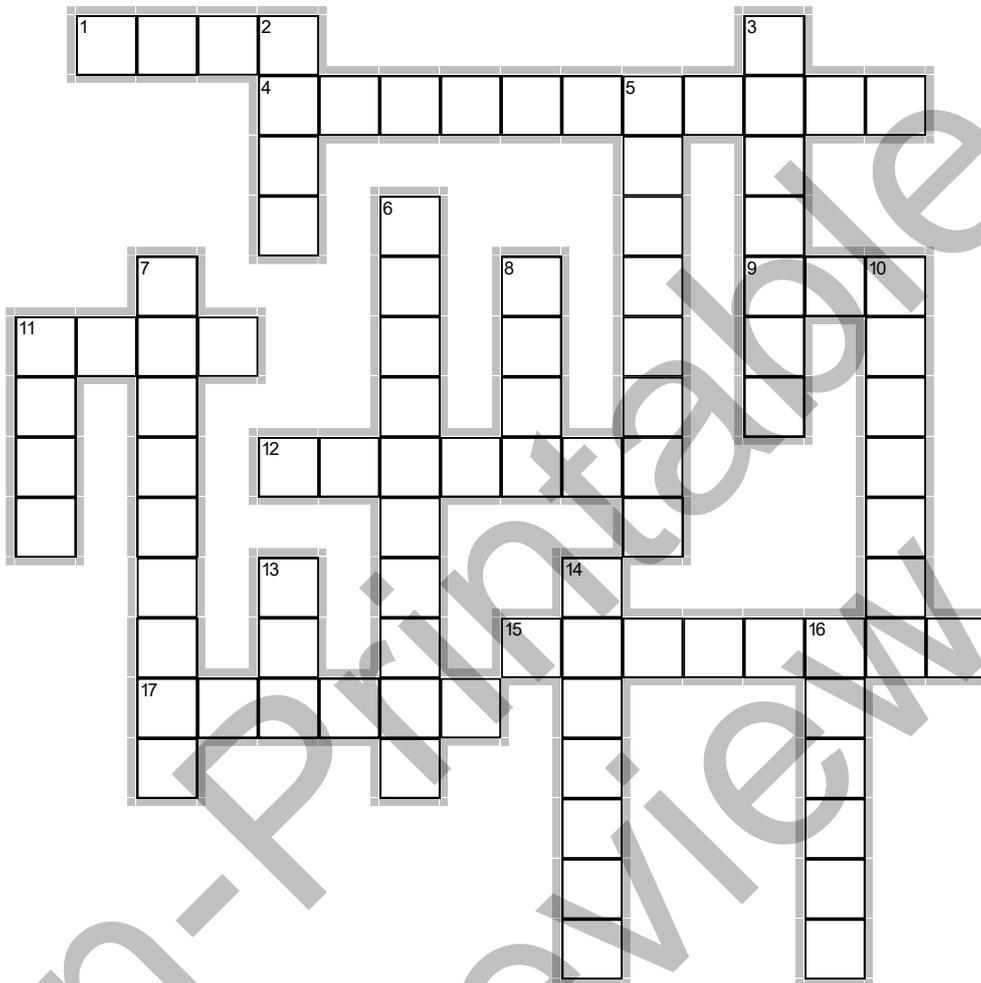
AIR POLLUTION – EXERCISES

4

Look for 10 words about air pollution (→ ← ↗ ↘ ↓) and mark them.

E M X V E D L S A I R
U H I L X B W W C V F
C D P O L L U T I O N
T A M J U G X M D O I
L N R S U L F U R X L
D I I P M D Q S A Y E
T U Y A O N T M I G A
D U C D Z O Z O N E D
G A G N F D L G N N A
F O S S I L F U E L O
V S Q Y S V A E R Z Z

Crossword



Across

1. material like gas, oil or coal that can be burned to get energy
4. nature and the world around us
9. gas that is in refrigerators and air conditioning systems
11. combination of fog and smoke
12. to pull air into your lungs
15. very small piece of something which you can hardly see
17. gas that is in the air and which we need to breathe

Down

2. gray metal that melts easily and is poisonous
3. machine on wheels that takes people or goods from one place to another
5. colorless gas that makes up most of our atmosphere
6. part of the atmosphere that protects us from the sun's rays (two words)
7. making the world around us dirtier
8. dry powder that is made up of small particles of dirt
10. a group of people who travel to work in a car together
11. top part of the Earth, on which plants grow
13. line of light from the sun
14. place where industrial goods are made
16. a very dangerous disease where cells start to grow in an uncontrolled way

6

Smog - Complete the text with the words from the box. There are more words than you will need.

The word “smog” means smoke and **(1)** _____ .
 When you burn **(2)** _____ or oil gases are produced.
 These gases combine with fog on the **(3)** _____ .
 When the sun shines , dangerous **(4)** _____ are
 formed in the air.

Especially in the **(5)** _____ , when temperatures
 are very high, smog stays near the ground and because
 of it some people can't **(6)** _____ very well.

Smog first occurred in Great Britain during the beginning
 of the **(7)** _____. At that time people
 burned a lot of coal and in **(8)** _____ iron and
(9) _____ was produced. The **(10)** _____
 of cities like London **(11)** _____ from smog and
 many people died.

Today, cities in **(12)** _____ regions have the most
 problems with smog—Los Angeles or Mexico City have a
 lot of **(13)** _____ and a lot of sunshine in the
 summer.

We try to do things to **(14)** _____ smog. Some
 cities don't allow cars into the downtown areas on smog
 days and factories use coal without **(15)** _____ .

- area
- breathe
- coal
- discovered
- factories
- fog
- ground
- Industrial Revolution
- occurs
- particles
- population
- prevent
- steel
- subtropical
- suffered
- sulfur
- summertime
- traffic

7

The Great Smog of London. Find 13 words that shouldn't be in the text and mark them.

The Great Smog of London has started on December 5, 1952 and lasted almost a whole week. It was one of the hardly deadliest events that Britain experienced in the last century. Between 4,000 and 10,000 people died as a direct result of the smog and more than 100,000 Londoners suffered themselves from lung-related illnesses.

Smog had always been a problem in Britain's capital, ever for since the days of the Industrial Revolution. At the beginning of December of 1952, a period of very cold weather hit at London. In addition also , heavy fog spread across the city. Coal was never used to heat homes, so people burned more and more to keep warm. Pollutants coming out of chimneys and factories stayed near the surface water and mixed with the fog because there was no heavy wind that would blow them away.

Traffic in those happy days came to a standstill. Ambulances could not get sick people to hospitals. People couldn't see very far away. Sometimes the smog was so thick you couldn't even see your own feet. The poisonous air came into houses through cracks in the walls.

As a result of the Great Smog, because the city's government passed strict pollution laws. Even though smog stayed a problem for years to come, the air quality of London slowly improved itself.



Nelson's Column during the Great Smog of 1952

Image: [N T Stobbs](#), [CC BY-SA 2.0](#) , via Wikimedia Commons

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Complete this information table. Write down the main pollutants, where you can find them and what they lead to.

POLLUTANT	WHERE THEY ARE IN	WHAT THEY CAUSE

