

Questions and Discussions

- A. What is the main cause of air pollution?
 - a. According to the article, the main causes of air pollution are pollutants PM2.5, PM10, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, and carbon monoxide.

- B. Why does LA have unhealthy air quality?
 - a. LA has unhealthy air quality due to the following factors:
 - i. Vehicle emissions
 - 1. LA's 6.5 million vehicles greatly contribute to smog and air pollution. Traffic and fossil fuel burning are major sources of PM2.5 and ozone pollution.
 - ii. Industrial and port pollution
 - 1. The Port of LA and Port of Long Beach, which are the busiest container ports in the US, rely heavily on diesel-powered ships, trucks, and equipment. This produces around 100 tons of smog daily.
 - iii. Wildfires
 - 1. Seasonal wildfires add tons of smoke and particles to the air, making pollution levels even worse.
 - iv. Geography and weather
 - 1. LA is surrounded by mountains, which traps polluted air. Warm inland air also prevents polluted air from escaping, further contributing to smog.

- C. What health problems are caused by air pollution?
 - a. Respiratory issues, cardiovascular diseases, cancer, and even neurological effects.

- D. Has air quality improved in Los Angeles over the past 5 years?
 - a. Yes. In recent years, there has been up to an 11.8% decrease in air pollution. In 2020, there was an 18 day stretch of clean air as well.

- E. What is the impact of COVID-19 to air quality?
 - a. During the COVID-19 pandemic, air quality was cleanest. It was exceptionally clean for 18 days straight, which broke its longest streak since 1995.

F. What is your neighborhood air quality?

a. 56

G. How could we reduce air pollution in Los Angeles?

a. We can put in place regulations to reduce emissions across transportation and other high-polluting industries. For example, the Clean Air Act has been deemed the most effective federal regulations for clean air, and was estimated to save more than 237,000 deaths from 1970 to 2020.

H. What are the major air pollutants?

a. PM2.5 and ozone