

Pollution Pods Exhibited in London

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Category : Technology/Innovations

Unlocking Word Meanings

Read the following words/expressions found in today’s article.

- 1. **simulate** / **ˈsɪm yəˌleɪt** / (v) – to recreate an environment or a situation
Example: The virtual reality room **simulates** the outer space.
- 2. **smog** / **smɒg, smɔg** / (n) – a combination of smoke and fog
Example: A lot of **smog** is present in cities with many factories.
- 3. **purify** / **ˈpyʊər əˌfaɪ** / (v) – to remove dirt or pollutants
Example: I bought a device that can **purify** the air.
- 4. **visual arts** / **ˈvɪʒ u əl ɑːrts** / (n) – works of art that are created to stimulate one’s sense of sight
Example: I plan to enroll in a **visual arts** program to improve my skills as a painter.
- 5. **resonate** / **ˈrez əˌneɪt** / (v) – to create positive feelings
Example: The campaign’s message **resonated** with me.

Article

Read the text below.

An installation called Pollution Pods was featured in London to recreate the most and least polluted cities in the world.

Designed by artist Michael Pinsky, the Pollution Pods were made of five interconnected small domes that visitors can visit. The domes **simulated** different environmental conditions in New Delhi, São Paulo / 'sau 'paʊ lou /, London, Beijing, and Norway’s Tautra [toh-truh]. The climate in each pod was controlled to specifically reflect the cities’ temperature, air quality, and scent.

To recreate New Delhi’s poor air quality, three column heaters and a **smog**-producing machine were used. São Paulo’s polluted atmosphere was imitated by applying an ethanol-based fuel that powers many vehicles. A scent called “Living Diesel” filled the London pod because cars are believed to be the leading cause of pollution in the city.

While the Beijing dome was not as polluted as the others, the Tautra dome was the one that stood out the most because it was the cleanest of all. It used a technology that **purifies** the air, which made sure that the Tautra dome was free from pollutants like nitrogen dioxide.

The Pollution Pods exhibit, which took place in time for Earth Day in April, was Pinsky’s collaboration with the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. The project aimed to examine the effects of **visual arts** on climate change perceptions.

Gillian Benjamin, one of the domes’ visitors, attested to the exhibit’s impact on raising awareness of air pollution. He shared that the differences in the domes’ environmental conditions are something that would **resonate** with the audience.

Viewpoint Discussion

Enjoy a discussion with your tutor.

Discussion A

- Would you be interested to see the Pollution Pods exhibit? Why or why not?

- What other cities do you think the Pollution Pods should simulate? Explain.

Discussion B

- Do you find visual arts effective in educating people on environmental issues? Explain.

- What other innovations do you think can resonate with people when addressing environmental issues? Why?

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