

WP4 Lesson Plans Guidance

Lessons on air pollution and its effects can be linked to the National Curriculum in science, PHSE or citizenship, English and geography. Teachers can hold clean air assemblies, and encourage pupils to talk to their parent and write to their MP, MSP, AM or local councillors. Some councils are now working centrally to reduce air pollution around schools. It's worth approaching your council to find out what's being done in your area.

Lesson Ideas

Links to curriculum

English

- Years 5 and 6 programme of study: Pupils should be taught to plan their writing by identifying the audience and purpose of the writing, selecting the appropriate form and using other similar writing as models for their own.
- Years 3 and 4 programme of study: Pupils should continue to have opportunities to write for a range of real purposes and audiences as part of their work across the curriculum.

Science

- Year 4 programme of study: Living things and their habitats: Recognise that environments can change which can sometimes pose dangers to living things. Pupils should explore examples of human impact (both positive and negative) on environments. States of matter: Compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases.
- Year 2 programme of study Animals including humans Find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival (water, food and air).

Lesson 1

Lesson 1		Resources
Learning Objective: To understand the issue of London's air pollution.	Starter: Display slide: 'Why do we need safe, clean air?' Ask children to jog on the spot for one minute – set a timer. Ask them what they notice about their breathing. Why is it faster? Why is it important that the air we breath is clean?	Greenpeace Air Pollution presentation and video.
Success Criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can say what the main causes are. • I can say what the effects on people are. • I can say what some of the solutions might be. 	Main teaching: Display slide: 'How does our air get polluted?' Ask children for suggestions and draw attention to the main source of pollution in London – vehicle emissions. Display slide: 'What is pollution?' Introduce children to the names of the main harmful pollutants, their sources and their harmful effects. Show video: 'Day in the life of a child' . Ask why children are affected by air pollution even more than adults (height, lungs still developing). How many London schools have illegal levels of pollution? (400). 'How does air pollution affect me and my family?' Ask the children if they or someone they know has asthma or other breathing problems. Is it more difficult to breathe on some days more than others? How do you think pollution affects this? Ask what they do and what others do that contributes to air pollution. What could we do differently? Display slide: 'What's the solution?' Discuss how walking, cycling, zero-emission buses, and electric cars can help because they do not create dangerous emissions. Display slide 'Who can make this happen?' Discuss how children and parents can decide to walk and cycle. Introduce Sadiq Khan – he is the mayor and has the power to change the buses and say which kinds of cars are allowed into our city. Ask who might be unhappy with some of these suggestions (e.g. drivers, owners of businesses). How could their concerns be addressed? And who would be helped?	

Lesson 1 (cont...)		Resources
	<p>Activity:</p> <p>Role-play: In groups of three, children take turns to be the mayor. The other two must either convince the mayor to tackle air pollution, or to reject proposals to tackle air pollution.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Hold a class debate on the Mayor's proposals for air pollution. The teacher, another member of staff, or a pupil could dress as the mayor (tie, rosette) and teams must either a) persuade the mayor to adopt the strongest possible measures to tackle air pollution, or b) to not adopt them.</p> <p>Plenary:</p> <p>Remind the children of the key points discussed. Tell them that they will be voting on whether or not to implement the solutions, but first they must write down their main reason on their whiteboards. Teacher asks all those in favour of implementing the solutions to show their whiteboards, then those against.</p>	<p>Ties Rosettes Mayoral chains (paper)</p> <p>Whiteboards and pens</p>

Resources for teachers

- The Clean Air Parents' Network has campaign resources for parents, carers and schools to use, including a map of polluted schools. <https://www.clientearth.org/latest/documents/clean-air-parents-network-london-mayoral-election-2021-summary-of-manifestos/>

- Greenpeace offer an Air Pollution teaching pack for KS2. <https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Air-Pollution-Teachers-Pack.pdf>
- Living Streets has produced a report on the benefits of active travel on the school run.
- Find out about what's being done in London to clean up pollution around schools for ideas and inspiration for your area.