

WHAT IS AIR POLLUTION AND WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

Air pollution is our air that is mixed with dirty contaminants—smoke, dust, dirt and gases such as carbon monoxide.

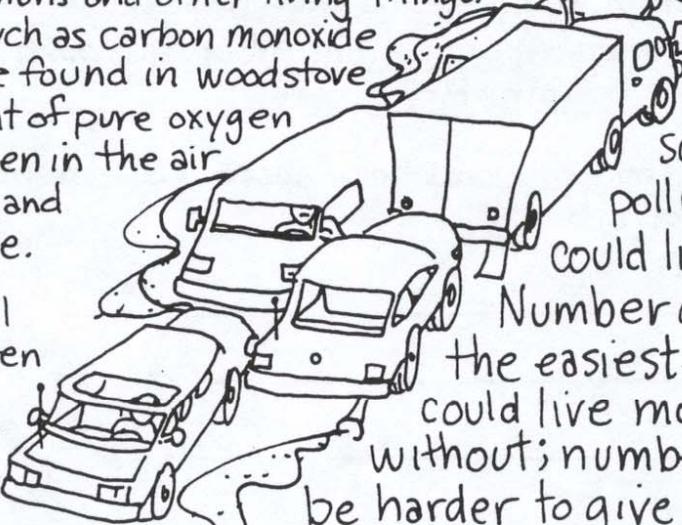
Sometimes you can see air pollution and often it is invisible!

Most air pollution comes from burning something, like when we burn gasoline to operate motor vehicles, carbon monoxide is emitted into the air. Carbon monoxide is an odorless and colorless gas, but it can be very harmful to our health when there is enough of it in the air.

In the winter, we have a special problem with pollution caused by woodstoves. Tiny particles are released into the air, and inhaled by humans and other living things.

Toxic or poisonous gases, such as carbon monoxide and particles such as those found in woodstove smoke, reduce the amount of pure oxygen in the air. Less pure oxygen in the air makes it difficult for people and other living things to breathe.

The earth can tolerate small amounts of pollution, but when large amounts of pollution are being poured into our air, including carbon monoxide, we exceed the earth's ability to fight back. We also exceed our own.



List three sources of air pollution you could live without.

Number one would be the easiest thing you could live most easily without; number two would be harder to give up; and number three would be the hardest.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

How will you live without each of these sources of pollution? What clean air actions will you take in replacing the air pollution sources?