



# Clean air route mapping

Change your journey, change your world

## Objectives

To understand what affects air quality.

To learn how pupils can plan their journeys to school to travel through areas of good air quality and the benefits this will have on them.

## Session plan

Introduce pupils to the concept of air quality. Ask pupils to stand up and then 9/10 to stay standing. This is the number of people worldwide breathing polluted air.

Encourage pupils to use the map in the pupil worksheet to identify what affects air quality. They should be able to find more than 10 causes. Allow pupils extra time on the activity if needed.

Encourage pupils to think about what may help improve air quality eg trees and parks.

Print out a map of the school area, we recommend using a Google satellite map. Hand out a map of the local area to each pupil or get it up on the whiteboard.

Get pupils to go through their pupil worksheets to identify areas of good air quality and possible new routes to school.

**Tip:** if some pupils live too far away, get them to draw new routes from the nearest train station, or team up with another pupil who lives closer to the school.

## Extension

Encourage pupils to draw a picture of how their route to school could be made even better. They might want to add in more parks, wildlife reserves, ponds and more.

Encourage pupils to create a mindmap of all the benefits someone might feel if they take a route to school that goes past more areas of good air quality.

## Time needed

30-45 mins

## Resources needed

Map of school area  
• Coloured pencils/  
pens

## Solo/group activity

Both

## Curriculum links

England

— Geography:  
geographical  
skills and  
fieldwork

Northern Ireland

— The World Around  
Us

Scotland

— Social Studies:  
People, Place and  
Environment

Welsh Curriculum  
Areas of Learning  
and Experience

— Humanities

Pupil worksheet:

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## Instructions

### Task 1

Take a look at this picture. Time yourself for five minutes and see how many things you can spot which would cause air pollution.

Optional - Use playdough or lego to make the pollutants stand out.



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## Task 2

Use the map provided by your teacher to spot areas of good or bad air quality in your neighbourhood and how you can choose the best route to school possible. This can be done individually or in pairs.

- Can you spot your school on the map? Once you have, draw a circle around it. How about your street? Draw a circle around that as well.
- Think about different sources of pollution in your school area eg busy roads, car parks, factories
- Draw a red line on your maps where the busy roads are.
- Now think about the areas of your map which will have good or better air quality eg green spaces, quiet roads, canal paths. Use a green pen to highlight these areas.
- Draw your usual route to school in a different colour. Does it pass through areas of bad or good air quality?
- Try to find an alternative route you could take to school which may take a little longer, but passes through more areas on your map which you've highlighted in green.

