Lab Guide to Air Quality Index

Here are 20 questions about air quality. Browse through the website http://www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=aqikids.index to find the answers and fill them in.

1. On a clear breezy day, how does the air smell? clean and fresh

2. On a hot day with no wind, how does the air feel? can be heavy and have a bad smell

3. When too much dirt and chemicals get into the air, what do people call the air? polluted

4. Where are you most likely to notice if the air is dirty? outside

5. What is the name of the disease that makes some people have trouble breathing in polluted air? Asthma

6. What can dirty air look like? hazy and brownish

7. Since we can’t always see dirty air, what has been created to help us? AQI or Air Quality Index

8. At least how many places does the EPA take samples of the air? 1000

9. What are the two most common air pollutants in this country? Ozone and particulate matter

10. Is ozone always bad? no. Explain. Differences between atmospheric ozone and ground-level ozone

11. Explain what particulate matter is. dust, etc.

12. How should you reduce exposure to particulate matter when the AQI is orange or worse? don’t play near streets with heavy traffic

13. What is an index? A quick way to tell people how good or bad something is.

14. Finish this rhyme, “When the AQI is green, the air is clean!”

15. Maroon is not usually shown on the AQI. Why not? Because of people working to clean up the air, it has not been that bad for years

16. What range of numbers does the Air Quality Index use? 0 to 500

17. By using the links provided on the page, what is the AQI for today? varies

18. What are some examples of groups who are “sensitive” to poor air quality? people with asthma, children

19. How can you tell if air pollution is affecting you? coughing, discomfort when breathing, tight chest

20. What can you do to reduce air pollution? List 3 ways. Could include transportation options such as carpooling, walking, riding bikes to energy saving ideas at school or at home

Now that you have completed answering these questions, you may visit the games and other websites that teach you more about air quality.