



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.