

TRAVEL BUSTER

Travel Facts



Air is all around us. It is the mixture of gases that we breathe. Our activities can pollute the air by adding other gases and particles. Almost everything we do causes some kind of pollution.



Sometimes we can see the pollution, for example car exhaust fumes and smoke, but a lot of pollution cannot be seen. Pollution is only a small part of the air that we breathe, but it only takes tiny amounts of some pollutants to harm our health and the environment.



Cars, vans and lorries run on petrol or diesel and this produces pollution - including carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides, particles, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons. All of these can be harmful to our health and to animals and plants.



Traffic fumes can make our eyes, nose and throat sore, cause headaches, and harm our hearts and lungs. They can also damage plants and wildlife.



A lot of children suffer from asthma these days and air pollution can make asthma worse in some people.



More pollution is given off by cars at the beginning of journeys, when the engine is warming up, so it is much better to walk or cycle shorter journeys.



On still hot sunny days pollution can be especially bad, with the strong sunlight turning fumes from the exhaust pipes into a cloudy mix of gases called 'smog'.



Some vehicles use 'cleaner' fuels, such as electricity, which means they don't cause as much air pollution when they are used.



All the extra carbon dioxide that we are producing is causing the world's weather to change, which means we have warmer temperatures, heavier rainfall, rising sea levels. This is known as climate change.



Aeroplanes are the most polluting kind of transport that we use. It takes a huge amount of fuel to lift a jumbo jet into the air, and there are thousands of large jets flying every day!



Noise is unwanted sound. Noise affects different people in different ways. One person might enjoy listening to their music loudly, but someone living next door might find it annoying and it could even disturb their sleep.



Noise from transport affects around 30% of people in the UK - this includes noisy engines, tyres rolling along the road, squealing brakes and honking horns!



Noise from cars, buses, vans, lorries and railways can build up in busy towns and cities and disturb people living nearby.



People living in the countryside can be disturbed by busy roads - noise from car, van, lorry and bus tyres gets louder the faster they go.



Aeroplanes are very noisy and can disturb people who live close to an airport or under a flight path. The amount of people travelling by aeroplane is increasing, which means more planes and more noise!



Noise from vehicles can damage our health - in a busy city with a lot of traffic we can be disturbed by traffic noise and suffer from stress and not being able to sleep, which can make us ill.



Walking, cycling, skateboarding or scootering are all great ways to get to and from school and keep fit and healthy. You can also enjoy the fresh air along the way and check out the sounds and smells on your journey.



The more vehicles there are, the more pollution and noise there is, so it is much better to travel by bus or train than by car, because they can carry more people, meaning less vehicles are needed.