



**Friends of  
the Earth**

## Lesson plan - Air pollution

### Curriculum links

Geography	Key Stage 1	Unit 1:	Around our school, the local area
Geography	Key Stage 1 & 2	Unit 8:	Improving the environment
Geography	Key Stage 1 & 2	Unit 12:	Should the high street be closed to traffic?
Science	Key Stage 1 & 2	Unit 5_6H:	Enquiry in environmental and technological contexts, Section 2: Collecting and interpreting data, mathematics, data collection

### Prior learning

How to draw pictograms.

### Points to note

Teachers should have scouted a safe area for children to count traffic.

Teachers will need a good understanding of how air pollution affects the environment and our health and ways in which we can reduce air pollution.

### Learning objectives

- How to undertake fieldwork.
- How to collect and record evidence about local traffic issues.
- Ways in which air pollution can be reduced.

## Lesson structure

### Introduction

- Ask each child how they came to school today.
- Use the information to create a table.
- Ask the children whether they noticed if the roads were busy on their journey.
- Introduce the concept of air pollution caused by polluting cars.

### Activity

- Traffic count: Take the children to a nearby road. Tell them to observe and record the passing traffic over a 5 minute period (in draft format).
- Where possible try and record the number of cars with only 1 person in them.
- Return to classroom and instruct children to create pictograms of traffic count.

### Extension activity

Count the traffic at different times of the day (include the busiest time, e.g. either the start of the day or at home time). Work out an average of how much traffic passes the school each day.

## Plenary

- Discuss children's findings as a whole class.
- Discuss implications of traffic in terms of air pollution.
- Discuss what else causes air pollution.
- Discuss possibilities to reduce air pollution (use help cut air pollution and solutions sections from our *Mad about air pollution* leaflet).

## Resources

*Mad about air pollution* leaflet

Clipboards

Pens

Paper

Colouring pens/pencils

Graph paper

## Key words/vocabulary

Pollution

Energy

Health

Smog

## Success criteria

Children will have created pictograms of traffic observed near school.

## Take it further

"Walk to School Day" [http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/factsheets/walking\\_bus.pdf](http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/factsheets/walking_bus.pdf)

