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Activities

Air Quality Index

Name: _____ Date: _____

99 percent of the air we breathe is made up of nitrogen and oxygen. The other 1 percent sometimes includes pollutants we shouldn't be breathing. The Air Quality Index tracks some of these. You'll find out how clean your air is today in this Planet Diary activity.

Directions

- View this map of today's air quality across the United States. Look at the map colors, then read the color key below. Answer questions 1 and 2 in the Workspace.
- For a look at today's air quality where you live, select your state from the *Local Air Quality Conditions* (upper right), then click *GO*. Click the name of the city nearest to where you live. View *Current Conditions*. Read the info on the Air Quality Index (AQI) and ozone and particle pollution. Use the information to answer question 3.
- Here's more info on the Air Quality Index. Look closely at the color charts, then answer question 4.
- Get the facts about particle pollution, then answer question 5.
- Find out more about ozone. Answer the last question.

Workspace

1. What's the AQI rating of today's air where you live?

2. Which parts of the country have the worst air today? How bad is it?

3. Your air quality today:
   a. AQI (color and number)

   b. Ozone (color and number)

   c. Particles (color and number)

4. What's the difference between a yellow and red AQI rating?

5. Pollution particles smaller than 10 micrometers can cause health problems. Explain why.

6. How does "bad" ozone form?

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