



Air pollution

Concept—Emissions from many sources pollute the air

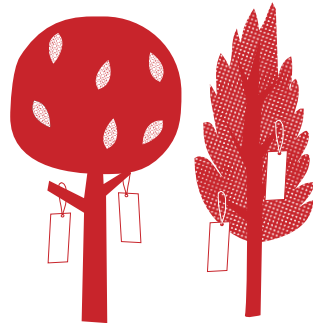
CURRICULUM LINK:

Geography Curriculum and Science Curriculum—Environmental Awareness and Care strand
 Geography Curriculum—Natural Environments strand

Experiment

You will need:

- Sticky tape
- Paper clips
- Graph paper (paper with a grid)



1. Cut the sticky tape into small strips (about 6cm long).
2. Unbend a few paper clips so that one end can be attached to the sticky tape, leaving a hook at the other end.
3. Hang these strips in different places (classroom, roadside, playground) to collect any solid particles in the air.
4. After a few days remove the strips and stick them to the graph paper.
5. For each sample, use a magnifying glass to count the number of solid particles on one square in the grid, then in a second and then a third square.
6. Calculate the average number of particles per square.
7. Record your results in the table to the right.

Date	Location	Weather	Average particles per square
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
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Which sample collected the most particles?

Do more:

You could do this experiment over a longer time period. Find out how the weather affects the number of particles. Are there more particles collected in summer or winter. Are there more at times of the day when

the traffic is heavy? The particles that collect on the sticky strips come from many different sources, including car exhausts, burning fossil fuels or building work. When we use fossil fuels to run our cars or to make the electricity we use to heat and light our homes, schools and offices, air pollution can result.