

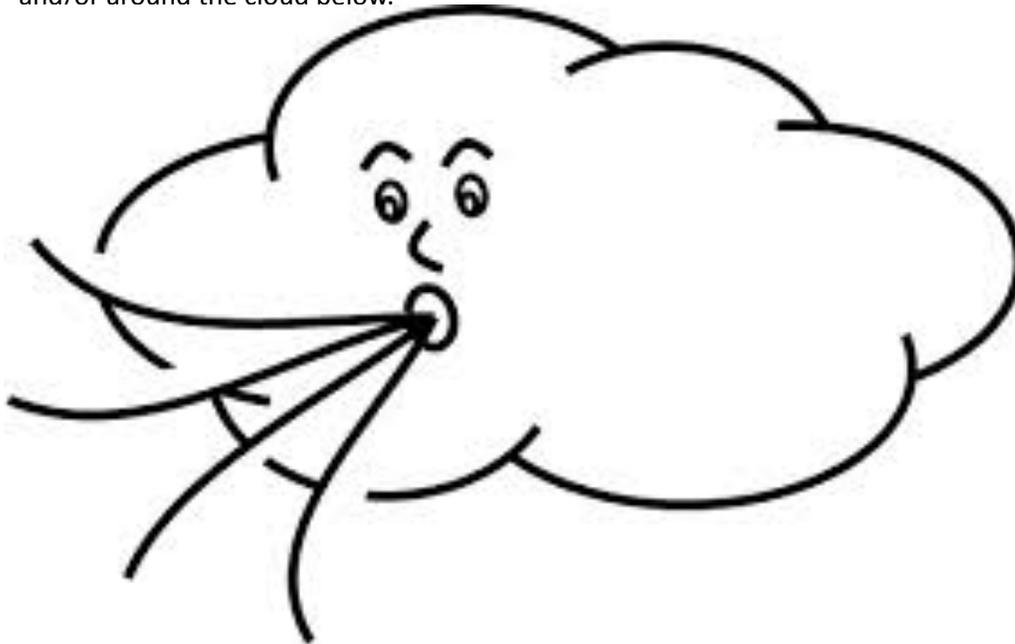
Air Quality

Obj. 10.3: Explain how air quality impacts health.



What's in the Air We Breathe?

The average person takes in about 28,800 breaths per day! The quality of the air we breath affects our lung and respiratory health and ultimately our overall health. When we breath in poor quality air over time, we can develop or worsen chronic disease. **Brainstorm:** What makes up the air we breath? What harmful gases or particles might be in the air we breath? Write your ideas in and/or around the cloud below.



DISCUSS

Caretakers of the Air

With a partner, discuss the following questions. Record your ideas.

1. Who is responsible for the air we breathe? What roles do individuals, communities, organizations, the government, companies, etc. have?
2. If you found out that your home and/or school were located in areas with dangerous levels of air pollution, what would you do?



Ozone & Particle Pollution

Read the following introduction to air pollution from the American Lung Association’s website. Then navigate to the site at <http://www.stateoftheair.org/2014/health-risks/> to complete the table below.

Two types of air pollution dominate in the U.S.: ozone and particle pollution¹ These two pollutants threaten the health and the lives of millions of Americans. Thanks to the Clean Air Act, the U.S. has far less of both pollutants now than in the past. Still, more than 147.6 million people live in counties where monitors show unhealthy levels of one or both—meaning the air a family breathes could shorten life or cause lung cancer.

*So what are **ozone** and **particle pollution**? (Take notes from the website in the table below!)*

Ozone	Particle Pollution



State of the Air

Read the “Key Findings” from the State of the Air report by the American Lung Association. Navigate to <http://www.stateoftheair.org/2014/key-findings/> and click on the various subsections. Then answer the questions below:

How does our nation’s air quality today compare to the air quality of our nation one decade ago?	
What is the state of ozone pollution in our nation?	
What is the state of particle pollution in our nation?	
What things do we need to do as a nation and as individuals to get healthier air?	

