



Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs





Name: Class: Year:

What can you see in the picture?
 What does the picture tell us about how we travel to school?
 How could the people in the picture do something to make things better for others?

Look and Talk...



Teacher Notes

This is designed as an introductory activity with open ended questions to get children exploring the picture and thinking about how we can travel and how our travel choices can impact the air we breathe.

Question and aim	Prompts	Answers you are looking for
1 - Getting children to notice different modes of travel and make their own observations from the picture.	 How are people getting to / from school? 	 In different ways. Some people are travelling on foot; others on scooters; some on bikes; some in wheelchairs and others in cars.
2 - Starting a conversation about the link between how we travel and how clean the air is.	What is coming from the cars?	 Exhaust fumes / pollution / smoke / gas / particles.
	 Why is it coming from the cars? 	 As the petrol / diesel burns it releases gases (nitrogen dioxide and carbon dioxide) into the air. Little bits also come off the tyres / brakes and clutches from all cars (including electric vehicles) and are released into the air (these are called particulate matter). All of these are pollutants and are bad for our health and environment.
	 What is on the balloons? Why? Are pirates 'good / bad'? What does this tell us about the grey stuff / gases coming from the cars? 	 Skull and crossbones; 'pirate' sign; all of these gases and particles are pollutants and are bad for our health and environment.
	 Is this coming off people walking, scooting and cycling? 	• No.
	Why not?	• They get their energy to move from their food, not by burning stuff (fossil fuels), so they do not produce air pollution.
	 Is the pollution only near the cars? 	 No – it has spread out.
	 Where is the most polluted air? How do we know this? 	• Close to the car exhausts; the darker the grey colour, the more polluted the air is.









3 - Finding solutions to keep our air cleaner at school.	How can you make the air cleaner for others?	 By actively traveling (walking / wheeling / cycling) to school or whenever you can.
	 How can you make sure the air you are breathing is clean? 	 Stay as far away from the car exhausts as you can, for example walk on the side of the pavement furthest from the road. Take a different route to school on less busy roads.
	 Is the red car moving? 	 No – it is sat behind the orange car.
	Is the orange car moving?	• No – there is no-one in it.
	 Do the cars have their engines on? 	 Yes – they both do. They are both 'idling' (have their engines running when the car is not moving).
	 Is there air pollution inside the cars? 	• Yes – air pollution gets into cars through air vents in the front of the car. These are at the same height as the exhaust of the car in front. Once inside the car, the pollution is trapped. There are often higher levels of air pollution inside a car than outside. This is because outside, the pollution spreads out.
	 What could the drivers do to help make the air cleaner? 	 Park away from the school and walk / scoot the last bit (park and stride).
	 Should we stop cars coming close to school? 	 We could do this by asking for a School Street (timed road closure where road leading to the school is shut at drop off and pick up times to create safer environment and cleaner air for children at the school). School Streets however are not suitable for all schools, for example because it is on a main road and there is no alternative route for cars to go.
	 What can drivers who do need to drive close to school (for example disabled people or teachers) do to keep air cleaner? 	 Turn their engines off when stopped (do not idle).





