

Clean Air Routes

What is air pollution?

Air pollution is the dirty bits in our air, that are bad for our health and the planet.

To do:

Circle the pictures of things that make air pollution.



How to choose a clean air route:

To breathe cleaner air, we need to stay as far away as we can from the things making the pollution. Most air pollution comes from cars (and other vehicles like buses) on our roads.

The busier the road, the more air pollution there will be. To breathe cleaner air when we are walking, wheeling or cycling, it is a clever idea to choose quieter roads or paths to go down. Remember that you might have to use main roads for part of your route if there is not a quieter road or path.

We are going to learn how to plan a clean air route.

Key :

Main roads (A and B roads) – red, orange or yellow
 Quieter roads – white
 Paths – blue or red dotted lines

To do:

Here is a map of an area of part of Christchurch. We are going to think about what way we could walk or cycle from the garden centre to the church.



credit: OpenStreetMap

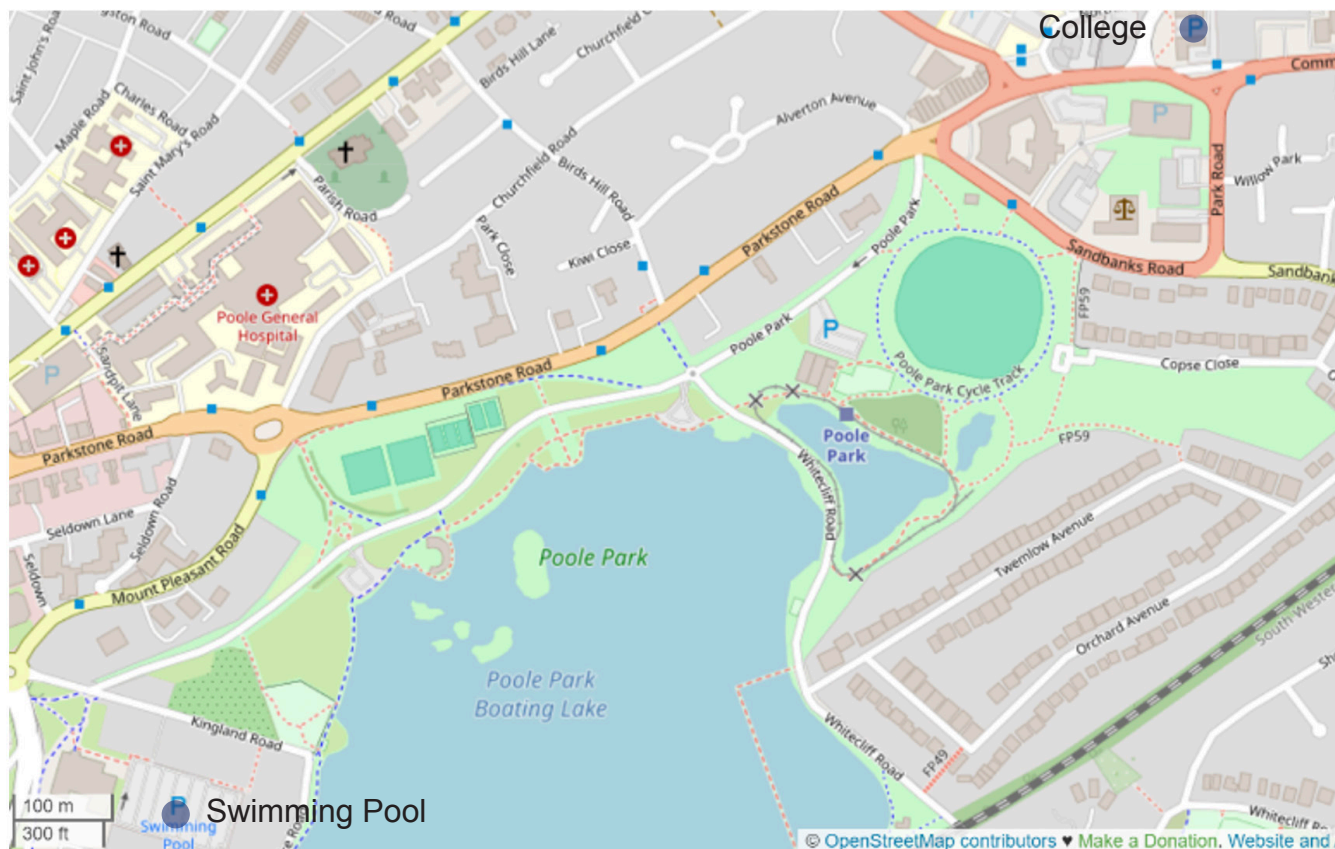
To do this, follow these steps:

1. Look at the map and find the garden centre and the church and point to them.
2. Run your finger along the dashed purple line – these are the MAIN roads that you could go along. How do you know they are main roads?
3. Run your finger along the dashed pink lines – these are the smaller roads or paths you could use. How do you know they are quieter roads or paths?
4. If you were walking, wheeling or cycling which way would you go? Route A, Route B or Route C? Why?



To do:

Here is a map of an area of Poole. Now, plan a route to walk, wheel or cycle from the college to the swimming pool.



credit: OpenStreetMap

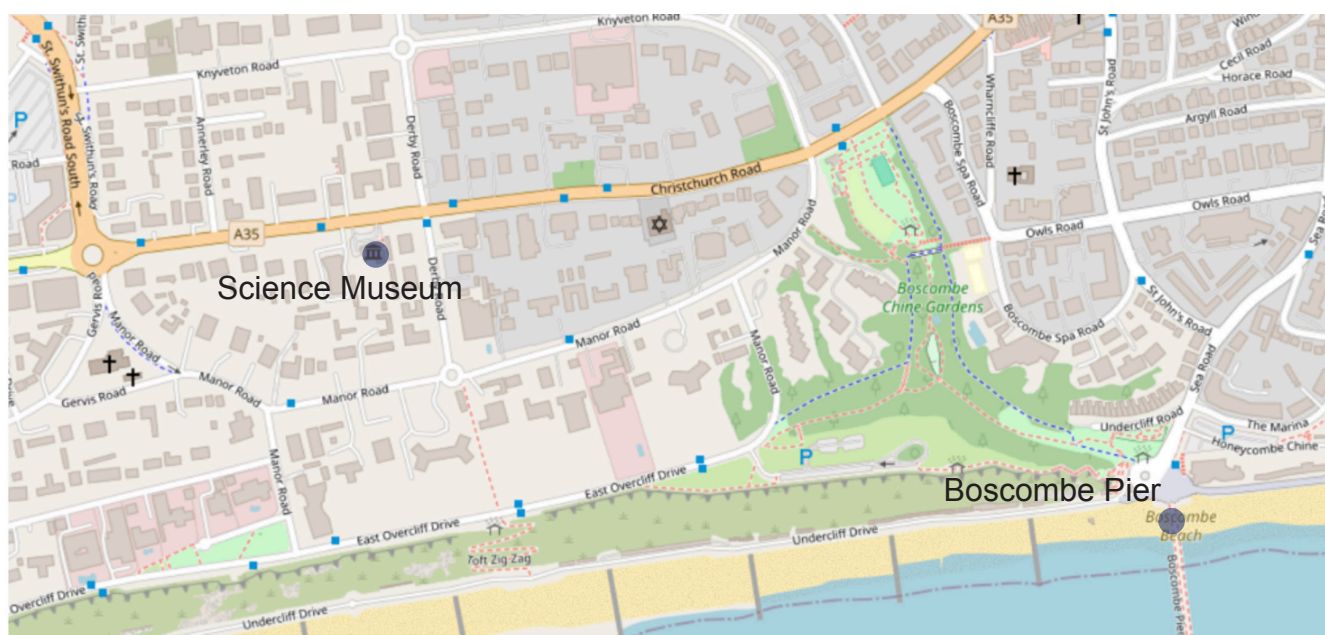
To do this, follow these steps:

1. Find the college and the swimming pool.
2. Use a purple pencil to draw a line along the main roads you could go along.
3. Use a pink pencil to draw a line along the smaller roads or paths you could go along.
4. Draw a line to show what route you would walk or cycle along to get from the college to the swimming pool.
5. Your teacher will show you the route they chose. Was your route the same? If it was different, whose was a cleaner air route? Why?



To do:

Here is a map of an area of Bournemouth. Now use what you have learnt to plan a route from the Science Museum to the beach at Boscombe Pier.



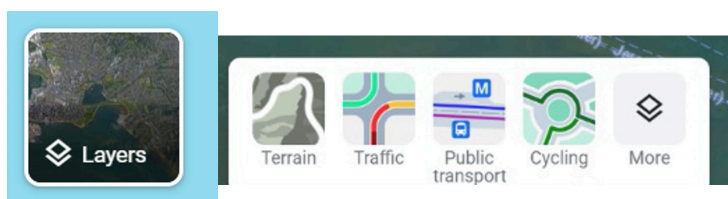
credit: OpenStreetMap

Extension:

Use Google Maps (<https://www.google.com/maps>) or OpenStreetMaps (<https://www.openstreetmap.org/>) to plan a clean air route for you to walk, wheel or scooter along from your home to your school (this could be the school you go to now, or the next school you hope to go to).

Tip:


On Google Maps you can use the layers button to find cycle paths and also traffic levels.



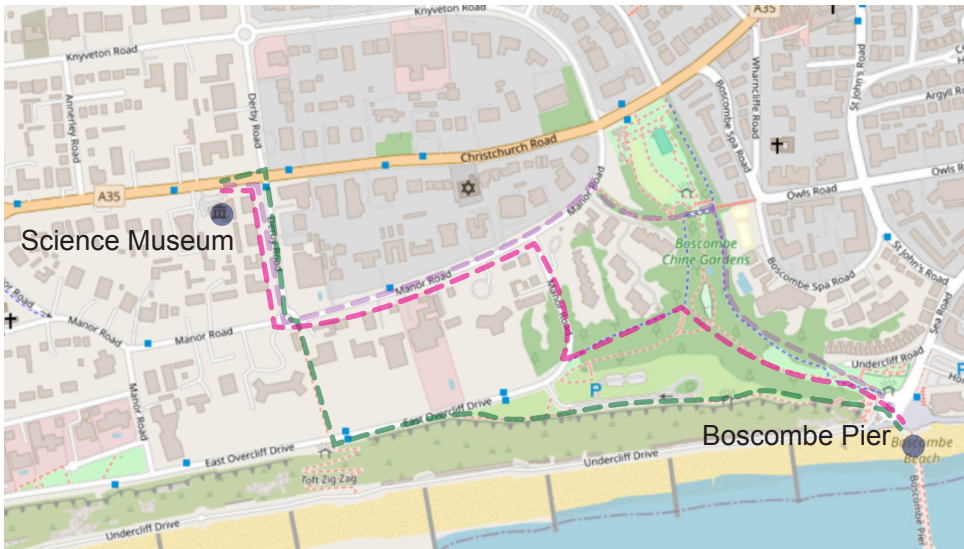
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Teacher Notes

Activity	Notes
1. Quick starter	Number the children 1-10. Start by getting everyone to stand up. Then ask everyone (except number 1's) to sit down. Explain that everyone who is sat down is breathing dirty air; only those who remain standing are breathing clean air. 9 in 10 children in the world are breathing in dirty air.
2. Circle things that make the air polluted	Answer: car / aeroplane / wood burner.
3. Read: How to choose a clean air route	
4. Look at the key	Get children to find one main road / one quiet road and one path from the maps.
5. Work through the steps on planning the route on the Christchurch map	<p>Q. How do you know they are main roads?</p> <p>A. <i>They are red / orange / yellow (they are A or B roads).</i></p> <p>Q. How do you know they are quieter roads / paths?</p> <p>A. <i>Quieter roads are white (minor roads) and paths are blue / red dotted lines.</i></p> <p>Q. If you were walking, wheeling, scooting or cycling which way would you go? Why?</p> <p>A. <i>Route C because it is mostly on paths and quieter roads, where there are less cars, so the air is cleaner.</i></p>
6. Work through the steps on planning the route on the Poole Map	<p>Answer:</p> 



Activity	Notes
<p>7. They plan the route on the Bournemouth map</p>	<p>Answer:</p> <p>There are lots of options for clean air routes here. The most likely ones are marked on the map in pink, purple and green dashed lines. As long as the children have chosen routes that are mainly on minor roads (white or dotted paths) they have got the right idea.</p> 
<p>Other useful info:</p>	<p>Primary and nursery children are exposed to 30% more air pollution than adults because they breathe twice as fast and are closer to vehicle exhausts.</p> <p>How to avoid air pollution</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Choose your day - Check WHEN the air might be best - use Pollution forecast - Defra, UK - which will tell you the air pollution forecast for the next 5 days. 2. Choose your TIME – avoid rush hour if you can. 3. Choose WHERE you go – check on UK Emissions Interactive Map (beis.gov.uk) – select nitrogen oxides (as NO₂) as the air pollutant and then put in your postcode and search your local area to see if there are areas with cleaner air. If not, anywhere away from roads will be cleaner i.e. parks / woodlands.

