

# World Environment Day 2019

World Environment Day is an important event that takes place on 5<sup>th</sup> June every year. Since beginning in 1974, the event has grown in popularity and is now celebrated in over 100 countries all over the globe. Each year, a different country is chosen to host the celebrations and a theme is chosen that highlights environmental issues in that country. This year, China is the host country and the theme is 'air pollution'.

World Environment Day aims to tackle air pollution by urging governments, industry, communities and individuals to explore new technologies and improve air quality around the world.

## Why Air Pollution?

- Nine out of ten people in the world breathe polluted air.
- Approximately 7 million people die prematurely due to air pollution every year.
- £4 trillion a year is spent on care for people with illnesses related to air pollution, such as asthma and emphysema.

## Causes of Air Pollution

There are several different causes of air pollution, and it is important to understand what they are, how they can affect our health and what can be done to improve the air around us. The five main types of air pollution are:



### Household Pollution

Causes: When fossil fuels (coal, oil or natural gas) are burned to heat homes and cook food, they release dangerous chemicals into the air.

We can help by... using modern equipment and renewable energy sources, such as solar power.

### Industrial Pollution

Causes: Producing energy (such as electricity) in power stations and diesel generators contributes to air pollution. Lots of factories use chemical processes and the mining industry also creates air pollution.

We can help by... switching to renewable energy methods, such as solar and wind power and saving energy by not using as much.



### Transport Pollution

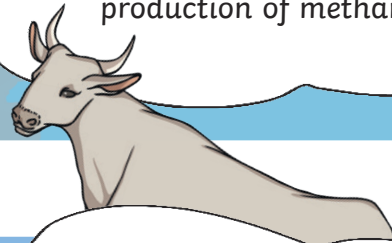
Causes: Vehicles are responsible for almost a quarter of carbon dioxide emissions. Diesel engines are the most dangerous as the fumes contain soot and other materials that cause harm to the human body.

We can help by... walking, cycling and using public transport where we can, as well as using electric cars, which do not give off exhaust fumes.

### Agricultural Pollution

Causes: Gases such as methane and ammonia are created by farm animals and pollute the air. Also, the burning of animal waste releases harmful chemicals into the air.

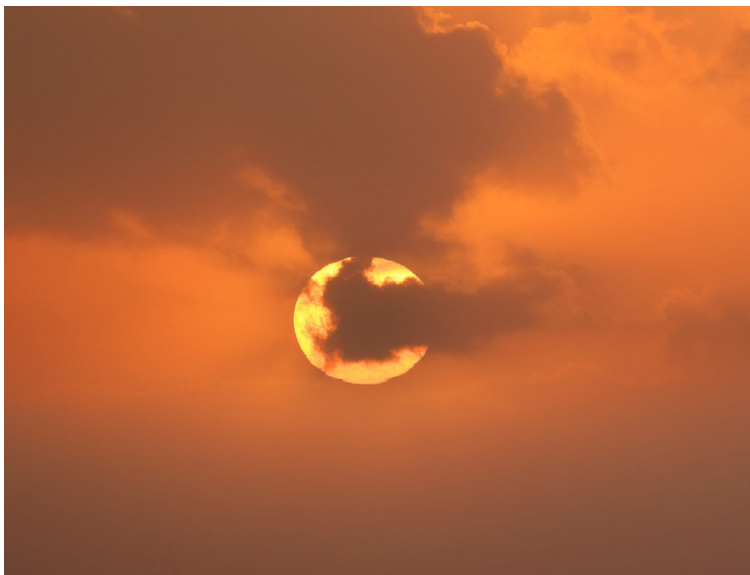
We can help by... reducing our food waste. Farmers can feed their livestock (animals) high quality food to reduce the production of methane.



### Waste Pollution

Causes: 40% of all waste is burned in landfills, polluting the air with harmful gases.

We can help by... recycling, reusing and composting as this will greatly reduce the amount of pollution created through disposal of waste products.



### Did You Know...?

Volcanic eruptions, dust storms and other natural processes can also cause air pollution. Tiny particles from sand and dust storms can be blown thousands of miles. In October 2017, storm Ophelia hit the UK, causing the sky to look red because of dust particles from Europe and southern Africa!

# Questions

1. Which year did World Environment Day start? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 1947
- ☐ 1973
- ☐ 1974
- ☐ 1993

2. Match each cause of pollution to its name.

Household Pollution

The burning of rubbish in landfills releasing chemicals into the air.

Industrial Pollution

The burning of fossil fuels in homes.

Waste Pollution

Air pollution caused by the production of energy.

3. Give **three** examples of ways in which people can help prevent air pollution.

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4. How much money is spent each year to care for people with air pollution related illnesses?

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5. What is the theme for this year's World Environment Day?

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6. Give an example of a fossil fuel.

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7. Which cause of air pollution do you think would be the easiest to prevent? Why?

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8. Which cause of air pollution did you find most surprising? Give a reason for your answer.

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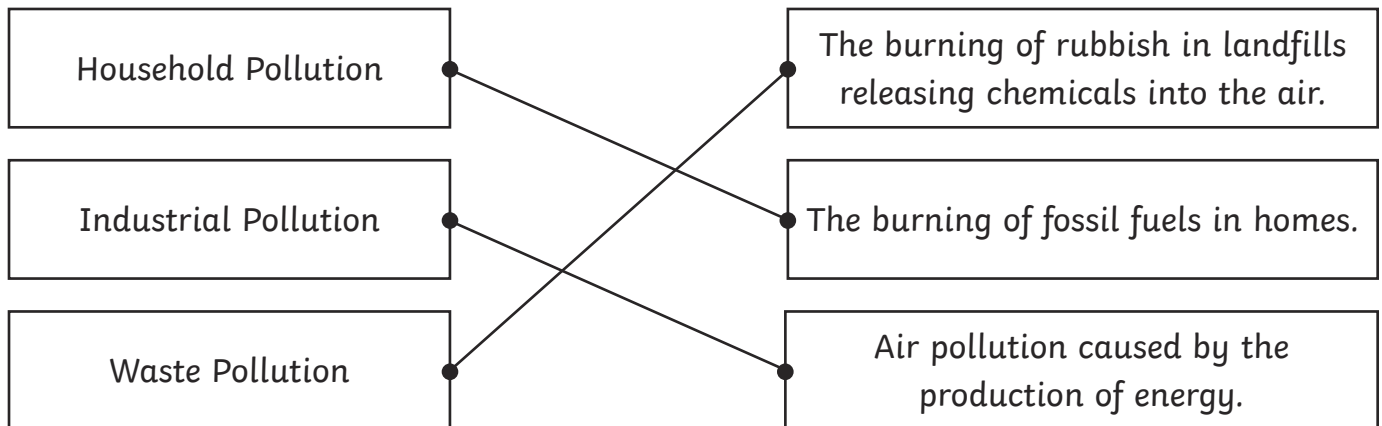
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# Answers

1. Which year did World Environment Day start? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 1947  
☐ 1973  
☒ **1974**  
☐ 1993

2. Match each cause of pollution to its name.



3. Give **three** examples of ways in which people can help prevent air pollution.

**Accept any three of the following answers only, in any order: using modern equipment; renewable energy sources such as solar power or wind power; saving energy by not using as much; walking and cycling more; using electric cars; reducing food waste; farmers feeding their livestock higher quality food and recycling.**

4. How much money is spent each year to care for people with air pollution related illnesses?

**£4 trillion pounds is spent each year on care for people with illnesses related to air pollution.**

5. What is the theme for this year's World Environment Day?

**The theme for this year's World Environment Day is 'air pollution'.**

6. Give an example of a fossil fuel.

**Accept any of the following: coal, oil or natural gas.**

7. Which cause of air pollution do you think would be the easiest to prevent? Why?

**Children's own response that refers to the text, such as 'I think that vehicle pollution would be the easiest to prevent because lots of people could take a bus to school or walk to school instead of getting a lift all the time.'**

8. Which cause of air pollution did you find most surprising? Give a reason for your answer.

**Children's own response that refers to the text, such as 'I thought that agricultural pollution was the most surprising cause of air pollution because I didn't realise that animals could cause air pollution.'**



# World Environment Day 2019

World Environment Day is an important event that takes place on 5<sup>th</sup> June every year. Since beginning in 1974, the event has grown in popularity and is now celebrated in over 100 countries all over the globe. Each year, a different country is chosen to host the celebrations and a theme is chosen that highlights environmental issues in that country. This year, China is the host country and the theme is 'air pollution'.

World Environment Day aims to tackle air pollution by urging governments, industry, communities and individuals to explore new technologies and improve air quality around the world.

## Why Air Pollution?

- Nine out of ten people in the world breathe polluted air.
- Approximately 7 million people die prematurely due to air pollution every year.
- £4 trillion a year is spent on care for people with illnesses related to air pollution, such as asthma and emphysema.

It is clear that air pollution is having a serious impact on the Earth and on our health. Something needs to be done to reduce the amount of pollution that is in our atmosphere.

## Causes of Air Pollution

There are several different types of air pollution and it is important to understand what they are, how they can affect our health and what can be done to improve the air around us. The five main types of air pollution are:

### Household Pollution

Household pollution is caused by the burning of fossil fuels (such as coal, oil or natural gas) to heat homes and cook food. When these are burned, these fuels release dangerous chemicals into the atmosphere thereby polluting the air.

We can help by...  
using modern equipment and  
renewable energy sources,  
such as solar power.

### Industrial Pollution

In many countries, the production of energy, such as electricity, can create air pollution. Coal-burning power stations and diesel generators are particularly to blame. Lots of factories use chemical processes and the mining industry also contributes to air pollution.

We can help by...  
switching to renewable energy  
methods, such as solar and  
wind power and saving energy  
by reducing how much we use.  
  
power and saving energy by  
not using as much.



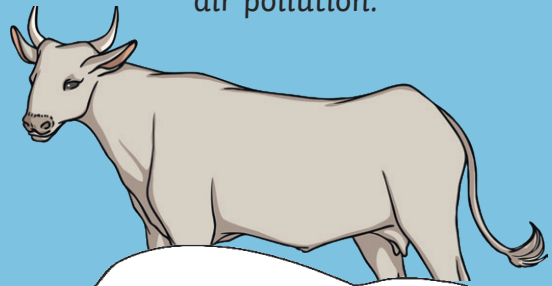
### Transport Pollution

Almost a quarter of carbon dioxide emissions are caused by pollution from vehicles. Diesel engines are the most toxic as the fumes contain soot and other materials that cause harm to the human body.

We can help by... walking, cycling and using public transport where we can, as well as using electric cars; these do not give off exhaust fumes.

### Agricultural Pollution

Methane and ammonia are gases released by farm animals, such as cattle, which both pollute the air. In addition, the burning of animal waste also contributes to air pollution.



We can help by... reducing our food waste. Farmers can feed their livestock (animals) high quality food to reduce the production of methane.

### Waste Pollution

Around the world, 40% of all waste is burned in landfills, polluting the air with harmful gases.

We can help by... recycling, reusing and composting as this will greatly reduce the amount of pollution created through the disposal of waste products.



### Did You Know...?

Some causes of air pollution are natural – volcanic eruptions, dust storms and other natural processes can also cause air pollution. Tiny particles from sand and dust storms can be blown thousands of miles, greatly diminishing the quality of the air. A recent example of this was when storm Ophelia hit the UK in October 2017, when dust particles in the air from Europe and southern Africa made the sky look red.



# Questions

1. Where is World Environment Day going to be hosted this year? Tick **one**.

- ☐ All around the world
- ☐ China
- ☐ London
- ☐ France

2. The word **prematurely** is closest in meaning to... Tick **one**.

- ☐ adult
- ☐ too soon
- ☐ pollution
- ☐ chemicals

3. Read the **Did You Know...?** section.

**Find** and **copy** a word that means **decreasing**, **reducing**, or **lowering**.

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4. Explain in your own words why it is important to try to prevent air pollution. Use evidence from the text in your explanation.

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5. What **two** things are the main contributors of industrial pollution?

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6. What do you think you could do to help prevent air pollution? Refer to the text in your response.

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7. Why do you think the popularity of World Environment Day has grown since 1974?

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8. How could a farmer help prevent air pollution?

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9. Which cause of air pollution do you think is the most dangerous and why?

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# Answers

1. Where is World Environment Day going to be hosted this year? Tick **one**.

- ☐ All around the world
- ☒ **China**
- ☐ London
- ☐ France

2. The word **prematurely** is closest in meaning to... Tick **one**.

- ☐ adult
- ☒ **too soon**
- ☐ pollution
- ☐ chemicals

3. Read the **Did You Know...?** section.

**Find and copy** a word that means **decreasing, reducing, or lowering**.

**diminishing**

4. Explain in your own words why it is important to try to prevent air pollution. Use evidence from the text in your explanation.

**Children's own response that refers to the text, such as 'It is really important to prevent air pollution because 7 million people around the world are dying every year because of it. Also, people all around the world are becoming ill because of air pollution and we need to try to stop more people getting ill.'**

5. What **two** things are the main contributors of industrial pollution?

**Coal-burning factories and diesel generators are two of the main contributors to industrial pollution.**

6. What do you think you could do to help prevent air pollution? Refer to the text in your response.

**Children's own response that refers to the text, such as 'I could help prevent industrial pollution by making sure I turn the lights out whenever I leave a room, as this will save electricity. I could also make sure I walk to school in the morning so I can help prevent transport pollution.'**

7. Why do you think the popularity of World Environment Day has grown since 1974?

**Children's own response such as 'I think World Environment day has become more popular since 1974 because people are more aware of the environment now and know how important it is to help save it.'**

8. How could a farmer help prevent air pollution?

**A farmer could help prevent air pollution by feeding their animals high-quality food.**

9. Which cause of air pollution do you think it the most dangerous and why?

**Children's own response using evidence from the text, such as 'I think transport pollution is the most dangerous because lots of people use vehicles to get around and almost a quarter of all carbon dioxide emissions are caused by vehicles.'**

# World Environment Day 2019

World Environment Day, which takes place annually on 5<sup>th</sup> June, is an internationally important event. Since beginning in 1974, the event has grown in popularity and is now celebrated in over 100 countries all over the globe. Each year, a different country is chosen to host the celebrations and a theme is chosen that highlights environmental issues pertinent to that country. This year, China is the host country and the theme is 'air pollution'.

World Environment Day aims to tackle air pollution by challenging and urging governments, industry, communities and individuals to explore and develop new technologies in order to improve air quality around the world.

## Why Air Pollution?

Air pollution is a serious issue. Around the world, nine out of ten people breathe polluted air which can create short and long-term health problems such as asthma and emphysema. Each year, almost £4 trillion is spent on care for people with illnesses relating to air pollution. In some cases, these illnesses kill. Around the world, approximately 7 million people die prematurely due to air pollution every year. It is clear that air pollution is having a serious impact on the Earth and on our health and that something needs to be done to reduce the amount of pollution that is in our atmosphere.

## Causes of Air Pollution

There are several different types of air pollution and it is important to understand what they are, how they can affect our health and what can be done to improve the air around us. The five main types of air pollution are:

### Household Pollution

Household pollution is caused by the burning of fossil fuels (such as coal, oil or natural gas) to heat homes and cook food. When these are burned, these fuels release dangerous chemicals and toxins into the atmosphere, polluting the air.

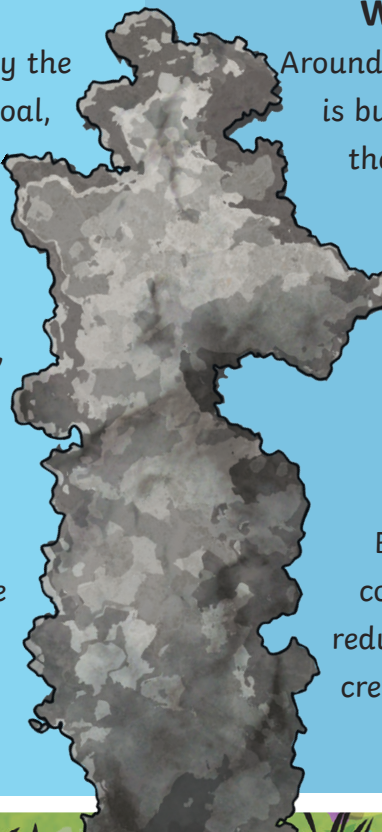
By using modern appliances and using renewable energy sources, such as solar power, we can reduce the amount of air pollution caused by households.

### Waste Pollution

Around the world, 40% of all waste is burned in landfills, polluting the air with harmful gases.

By improving the way in which we collect and dispose of waste, we can reduce the amount that requires burning.

By recycling, reusing and composting, we can greatly reduce the amount of pollution created through the disposal of waste products.







### Transport Pollution

Almost a quarter of carbon dioxide emissions are caused by pollution from vehicles. Diesel engines are the most dangerous as the fumes contain soot and other materials that cause harm to the human body.

Walking, cycling and using public transport where we can will help reduce the amount of this type of air pollution, as will increasing the use of electric cars as these do not give off exhaust fumes.

### Agricultural Pollution

Methane and ammonia are gases produced and released from farm animals, such as cattle, and both pollute the air. In addition, the burning of animal waste also contributes to air pollution.

To reduce this type of air pollution, we can change to a plant-based diet and reduce our food waste, while farmers can feed their livestock higher quality food to reduce the production of methane.



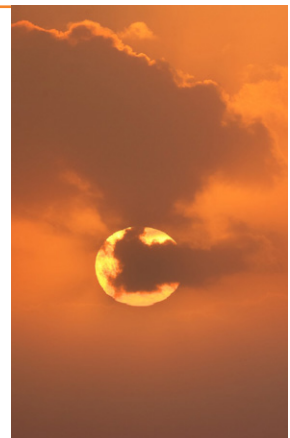
### Industrial Pollution

In lots of countries, the production of energy, such as electricity, is a major source of air pollution. Coal-burning power stations are a large contributor, as are diesel generators outside of built-up areas. Lots of factories use chemical processes and the mining industry also contribute to air pollution.

By switching to renewable energy methods, such as solar and wind power, the amount of pollution from energy production can be decreased. We can also try to conserve energy and use it sparingly, as this will mean that less energy needs to be made.

### Did You Know...?

Some causes of air pollution are natural – volcanic eruptions, dust storms and other natural processes can also cause air pollution. Tiny particles from sand and dust storms can be blown thousands of miles, greatly diminishing the quality of the air. A recent example of this was when storm Ophelia hit the UK in October 2017. Dust particles that travelled in the air from Europe and southern Africa gave the illusion of the sky turning red.



# Questions

1. What is the aim of World Environment Day?

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2. Match the extract from the text to the subject it discusses.

‘By using modern appliances and using renewable energy sources, such as solar power, we can reduce the amount of air pollution caused by households.’

The burning of rubbish in landfills releasing chemicals into the air.

‘Lots of factories use chemical processes and the mining industry also contribute to air pollution.’

The burning of fossil fuels in homes.

‘Around the world, 40% of all waste is burned in landfills, polluting the air with harmful gases.’

Air pollution caused by the production of energy.

3. Give **three** reasons why this year's theme was selected.

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4. **Find** and **copy** a word or phrase from the first paragraph that means **specific**, **relevant** or **appropriate**.

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5. What was Ophelia?

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6. Why do you think the author has included the example of Ophelia in the text? What effect did it have on you as a reader?

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7. Why do you think the author has used sub-headings in the text?

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8. Which of the following is a way to prevent transport pollution? Tick **one**.

- ☐ saving electricity  
☐ solar power  
☐ using electric cars  
☐ wind turbines

9. Which cause of air pollution do you think would be the easiest to prevent?  
 Give **two** reasons for your answer.

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10. Do you think awareness days can help? Explain your answer.

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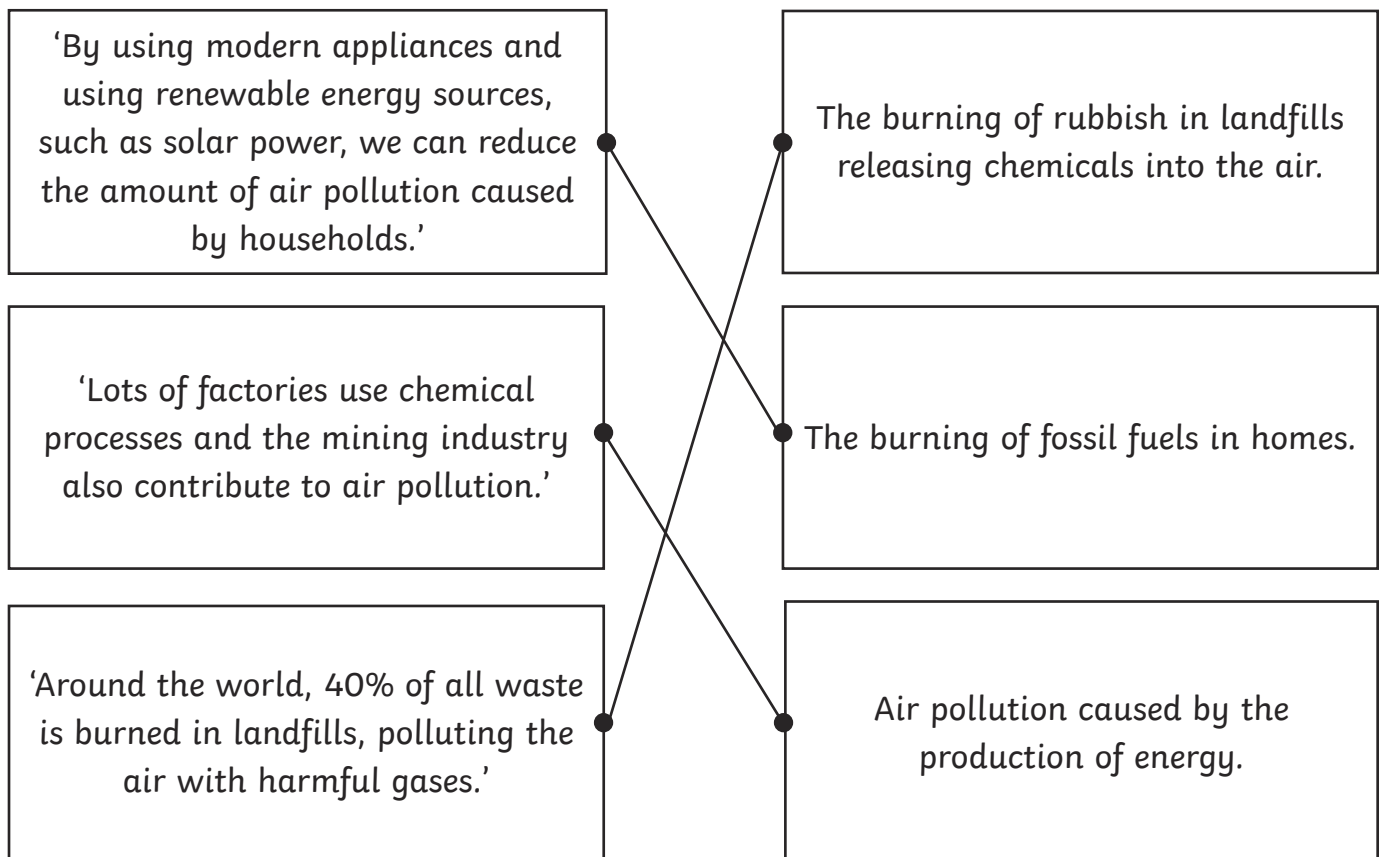
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# Answers

1. What is the aim of World Environment Day?

**The aim of World Environment Day is to challenge and urge governments, industry, communities and individuals to explore and develop new technologies and improve air quality around the world.**

2. Match the extract from the text to the subject it discusses.



3. Give **three** reasons why this year's theme was selected.

**Accept any of the following in any order – nine out of ten people breathe polluted air; lots of money is spent on care for people with illnesses relating to air pollution; approximately 7 million die prematurely every year due to air pollution; because air pollution is an environmental issue in China and that is the host of the celebrations this year.**

4. **Find and copy** a word or phrase from the first paragraph that means **specific, relevant or pertinent**.

5. What was Ophelia?

**Ophelia was a storm in the UK in October 2017 that brought dust particles from southern Africa and Europe, causing the sky to look red.**

6. Why do you think the author has included the example of Ophelia in the text? What effect did it have on you as a reader?

**Accept responses that refer to making a connection with the reader, such as: 'I think the author included the example of storm Ophelia in the text to make the reader think, as most people will remember it happening. It made me remember storm Ophelia and now I know that was a form of air pollution.'**

7. Why do you think the author has used sub-headings in the text?

**Pupil's own responses relating to organisation of the text, such as: 'I think the author has used subheadings in the text to separate the information into sections. This makes it easier to read and understand, and also makes it look more appealing to the reader.'**

8. Which of the following is a way to prevent transport pollution? Tick **one**.

- ☐ saving electricity
- ☐ solar power
- ☒ **using electric cars**
- ☐ wind turbines

9. Which cause of air pollution do you think would be the easiest to prevent? Give **two** reasons for your answer.

**Children's own response that refers to the text and gives two reasons, such as: 'I believe vehicle pollution would be the easiest to prevent because lots of people drive to places they would walk or cycle to instead. If everyone decided to walk just one or two journeys a week instead of driving, it would make a difference and would lower the carbon emissions in the air.'**

10. Do you think awareness days can help? Explain your answer.

**Children's own responses, such as 'If awareness days raise understanding of the problems and tell people what they can do to reduce the issues, then they can slowly help with the problem of air pollution around the world.'**