

# Hold Your Breath in China

Industry is growing in China, and air pollution is growing along with it. In a recent study by the World Bank, China is home to 16 of the world's 20 most polluted cities. The World Health Organization states that China pumps one third of the world total of pollutants like sulfur dioxide, ozone, and nitrogen dioxide into the world's air. Burning fossil fuels such as coal and petroleum to power Chinese industry and cars is a major source of pollution. The Chinese people also burn coal to heat their homes, adding to the pollution problem.

This air pollution results in lost work due to illness, early deaths, and chronic bronchitis, a lung condition. The Chinese Ministry of Health states that pollution has made cancer the leading cause of death in China. The European Union says that only one percent of China's 560 million city dwellers breathes safe air.



Air pollution in Beijing as seen after and before a rainstorm

Unfortunately, the air pollution problem is not contained to China. Winds carry the foul air to Korea and Japan as well. Researchers have even discovered particulate matter from Asia in the air pollution over the west coast of the United States!

# Keep Holding Your Breath in India

China's air quality problem is mirrored in India, where industry is growing, more cars are appearing on the roads, and air quality is steadily decreasing. Indoor air pollution is also a growing hazard. Most people cook every day, using unprocessed fuel that emits toxic fumes. Because of India's rapidly growing population, more and more Indians are exposed to larger amounts of pollution every year. Air pollution causes more than half a million deaths a year in India.

India is investing money in cleanup efforts but the growing population outpaces its efforts. The Taj Mahal, a sacred site and popular tourist destination, is growing yellow from pollution. Some experts believe that smog from India and China could possibly change weather patterns in North America.

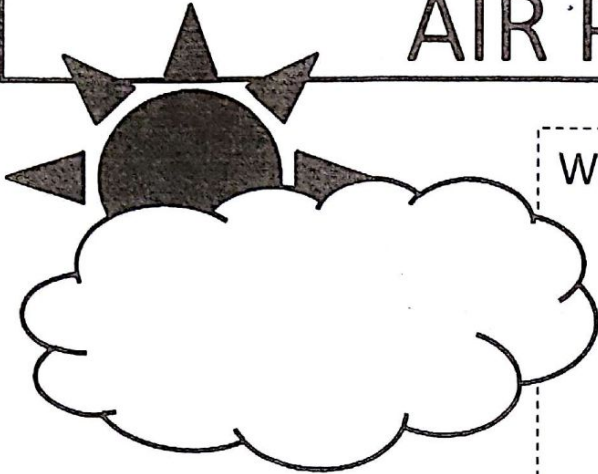


## Quick Quiz

Fill in the blanks below. Use the word bank to help you.

1. A study of the World Bank states that China has 16 of the 20 most polluted \_\_\_\_\_ in the world.
2. As industry grows in China, so does the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Many Chinese use \_\_\_\_\_ as fuel to heat their homes.
4. In India, the two main reasons for increased air pollution are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Using unprocessed fuels in cooking emits \_\_\_\_\_.
6. This sacred site and tourist destination is turning yellow from air pollution.

# AIR Pollution



What is air pollution?

Causes  
of Air Pollution

Effects  
of Air Pollution



What is the *Asian Brown Cloud*?

Draw the *Asian Brown Cloud* on this map.

