



# Global Air Quality Monitoring

In this activity we aim to explore air quality in a global context and investigate the air quality implications of the COVID-19 shutdown.

**Activity time:** 15 – 30 minutes, Daily

## What do you need?

1. Paper & Pencil and/or Microsoft Excel (or similar)
2. Computer & internet access

## What do you do?

1. Give each participant a different city (or choose one yourself) to keep notes on every day for 2 weeks in an excel sheet (or on paper), then graph the results.
  - a. Tip: try to check at the same time each day as numbers fluctuate throughout the day.
2. To find your data, look at a website like this: <https://aqicn.org/city/beijing/>.
3. Note the Air Quality Index (AQI) number, the Particulate Matter (PM), Nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), weather, and days of country shut down/travel bans.
  - a. See if there are any connections between data when you graph them.
  - b. If you are unsure of what PM and NO<sub>2</sub> are, research these online
    - i. What they are? Where do they come from? What are their effects?

## Reflect

1. Why do you think that some countries or cities worse than others?
  - a. List 2 things that affect air quality in the country or city you have researched.
2. Has there been any change in air quality since the city has shut down because of the COVID-19 pandemic?
3. Research the benefits of better air quality.
  - a. List 3 things that affect you or someone you know.