



# AIR POLLUTION



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# What is air pollution?

Air pollution is when unwanted chemicals, gasses, and particles enter the air and the atmosphere.

# What are the causes of air pollution?

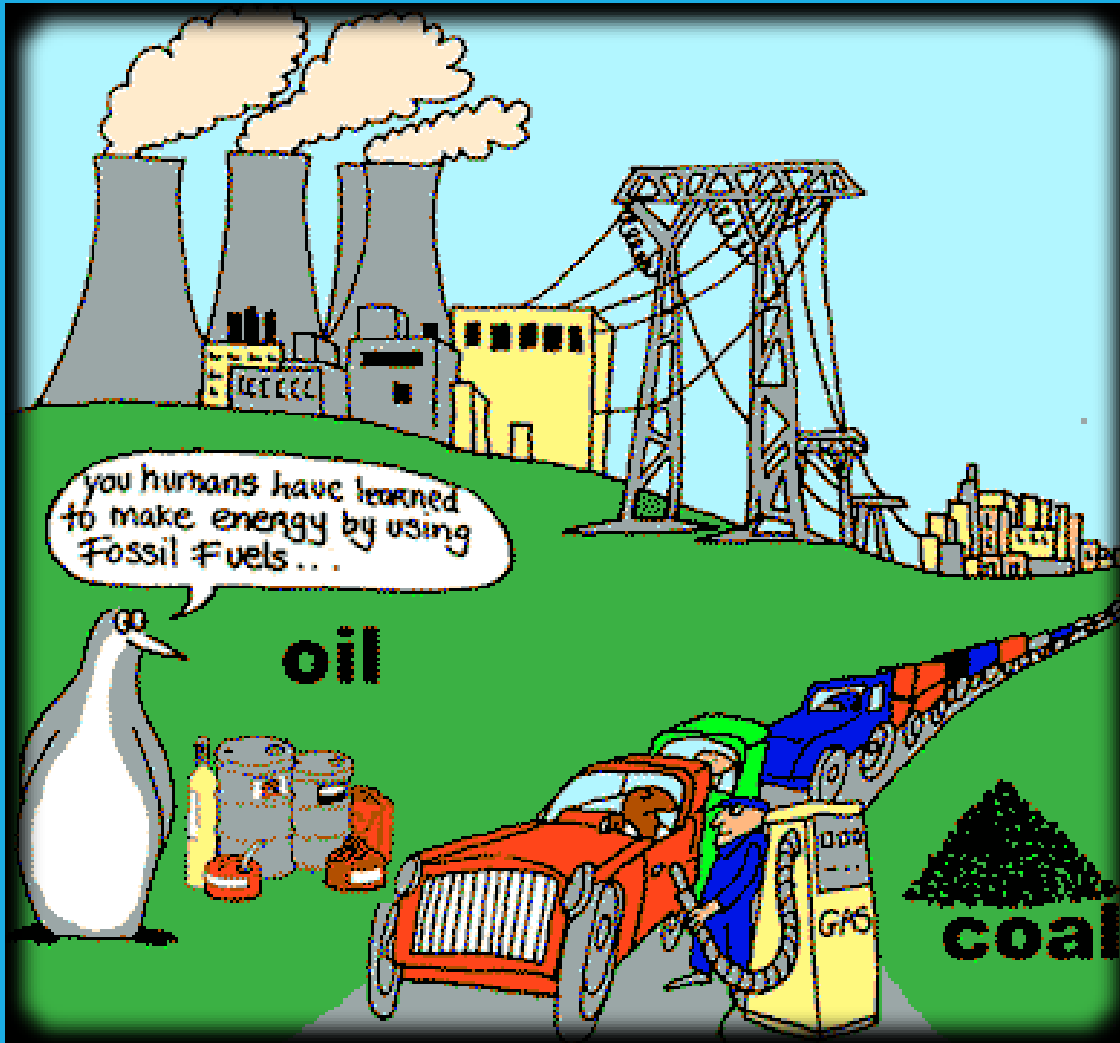
**Natural Causes** - eruptions of volcanoes, forest fires and dust storms

There are:

**Human Causes**- factories, power plants, cars, airplanes, chemicals, fumes from spray cans, and methane gas from landfills

# Burning fossil fuels

One of the ways that humans cause the most air pollution is by burning fossil fuels. Fossil fuels include **coal, oil, and natural gas**. When we burn fossil fuels this releases all sorts of gasses into the air causing air pollution such as smog.





What are the effects of air pollution?

Air pollution and the release of gasses into the atmosphere can have many negative effects on the **environment.**



# 1. Global Warming

One type of air pollution is the addition of **carbon dioxide gas** into the air. Some scientists believe that releasing too much carbon dioxide into the atmosphere is one of the causes of global warming.

## 2. The Ozone Layer

The ozone layer helps protect us from harmful **rays from the sun**. It is getting damaged from air pollution such as methane gas from livestock and gasses from spray cans.



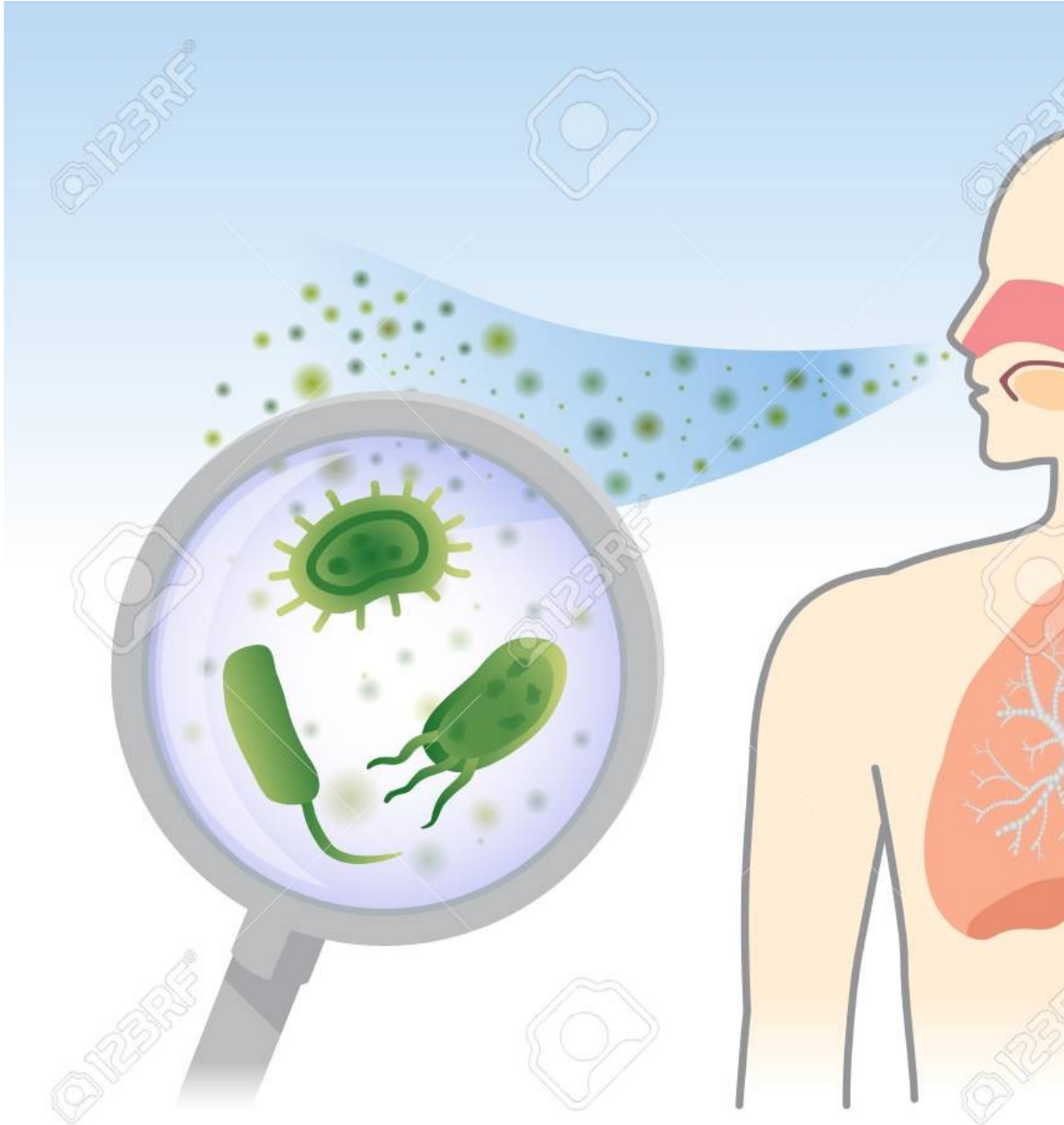




### 3. Acid Rain

Acid rain is created when gasses such as sulfur dioxide get high into the atmosphere. The wind can blow these gasses for miles and then they get washed out of the air when it rains. This rain is called acid rain and can **damage** forests and kill fish.





## 4. Effects on Health

Air pollution can also make people sick. It can make it difficult to breathe and cause diseases such as lung cancer, respiratory infections, and heart disease. According to the World Health Organization, 2.4 million people die each year from air pollution. Air pollution can be especially dangerous to children living in big cities with bad smog.

# Watch this video...

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t7Q7y\\_xjR5E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t7Q7y_xjR5E)