

Meet Micaela & Jeremy

Activity 3 - Find out what living with air pollution is like

Did you know there is a city that isn't too far away from Perth which suffers from constant air pollution? It is 3,000 kilometres away and is the capital city of Indonesia. The city is called **Jakarta**.



In this activity, we will hear from Micaela and Jeremy who live in Jakarta. They are class mates from a school called Binus School and their class is also learning about air pollution.

We've asked Micaela and Jeremy some questions to find out what it's like to live in a city that can suffer from air pollution.

Jakarta has lots of air pollution. Can you describe what this looks like?



It looks grey and it looks like smoke. It smells bad too! I can see it in the air.
- Michaela



Sometimes the sky doesn't look beautiful. It is full of smoke in the air. It looks like grey clouds in the distance.
- Jeremy

What do you think makes the air unhealthy in Jakarta?

Michaela: I would say it's the fumes and gases from the cars. The burning of fossil fuels is evident. A lot of people also smoke cigarettes and this can pollute the air.

Jeremy: Maybe from all the burning of plastic bags and garbage (rubbish) outside as well!

Why do you think there are so many cars on the road in Jakarta?

Michaela : A lot of people use motorcycles because they are cheaper to run but they also burn fuel.

Jeremy: There are a lot of people in Jakarta and many people have a car as well. I think a lot of people use cars instead of using public transport because they wanted to be safe from COVID.

How do you feel about walking to school instead of taking a car?

Michaela: I would feel tired. My house is far away, but if there was a school bus I would take it. Even if I was able to walk to school, I still wouldn't because crossing the roads is dangerous with so many cars and motorcycles and it's not safe, unless there was a supervisor.

Jeremy: I wish I could walk to school so it would save the environment, but it isn't very safe to walk to school here. There is too much traffic.

At school, do you get to play outside very much? Why/Why not?

Michaela: We get to play outside sometimes but we also have an indoor playground. Sometimes the air smells bad from air pollution and there is a lot of cars on the road so you can smell the fumes, especially in the afternoon.

When you become an adult, what would you like to see in your city that would help make the air healthier?

Jeremy: I would like to see better air quality with less smoke. I would like to see less cars and more public transport options to get around.

What are some things you can do to support healthier air?

Michaela: Plant a tree in our gardens.

Jeremy: Use public transport (like the 'MRT' or bus) when going out with family instead of the car.



Did you know?

Jakarta has a train system called the "MRT". It stands for Mass Rapid Transit. These trains run every few minutes and are fast. It is electric and is faster than taking a car. Jakarta opened its first MRT line in 2019.

Sort and compare

Compare what life is like in Jakarta and in Perth. You can cut the below sentences out and match them to the correct side.

Perth	Jakarta

Lots of cars and motorbikes on the road all the time	The city built new train lines in 2019	Playing inside is common at school
Playing outside is common at school	Lots of cars on the road but only during certain times of the day	You can safely walk to school
The air can look hazy and smelly	The air is usually fresh	Rubbish is burned outside

