

Meet Kate & Vivian

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 Kate and Vivian who live in Jakarta. They are class mates from a school called Binus School and their class is also learning about air pollution.

Kate has also lived in Perth and can compare what the air is like between the 2 cities. Her friend, Vivian offers some advice to encourage people to help keep the air healthy.

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



Sometimes the sky is grey and sometimes it's a little bit blue. It feels like there's lots of air pollution and it's hard to see some buildings. - Vivian



The sky is smoggy and it's not clear. It's blurry and when you breathe, the air pollution feels very strong. It doesn't feel comfortable and it's not fresh. - Kate

Kate, can you remember what it was like living in Perth and playing outside? How is this different to Jakarta?

When I lived in Perth and played outside, I could smell the ocean and the plants. The air doesn't smell like that in Jakarta. In Jakarta, there's lots of pollution and when I breathe, it's like there's lots of chemicals in the air.

What would you say is the biggest difference between the air in Jakarta and the air in Perth?

In Jakarta, sometimes when the pollution is not that bad I can smell the scent of the grass but in Perth, I can smell the plants and the ocean nearly most of the time.

What causes the bad air pollution in Jakarta?

The burning of trash (rubbish) which happens on the side of the roads or near houses. Also, the amount of cars that travel.

Vivian, you've lived in Jakarta your whole life but you live in a different neighbourhood to your school. What's your neighbourhood like?

My neighbourhood is about 20 minutes away from school. It is clean when we go out for cycling. There are some parks and the air is fresh. It's not that smokey unless you go to the main road. If you go to the main road, you'll see lots of traffic.

What helps to make the neighbourhood air a bit cleaner?

There isn't a lot of motorcycles and there isn't trash burning. There are a lot of trees and plants in the neighbourhood and every house has their own garden. I think this helps the air.

What solutions have you seen in Jakarta that help people combat air pollution?

I see people take the 'MRT' and other public transport so they don't use their cars on the road.

What advice would you give to make sure other kids your age can help keep the air clean?

Vivian: You can walk to places if it's not too far away. Try not to use your own private car as much. If you have to use a car, you could do 'carpooling' with friends that live near you to go to school.

Kate: Instead of travelling far for fun, try to find fun things to do at home or near you. Use bicycles or walk if it's safe to do so. Avoid burning things as the smoke can pollute the air.

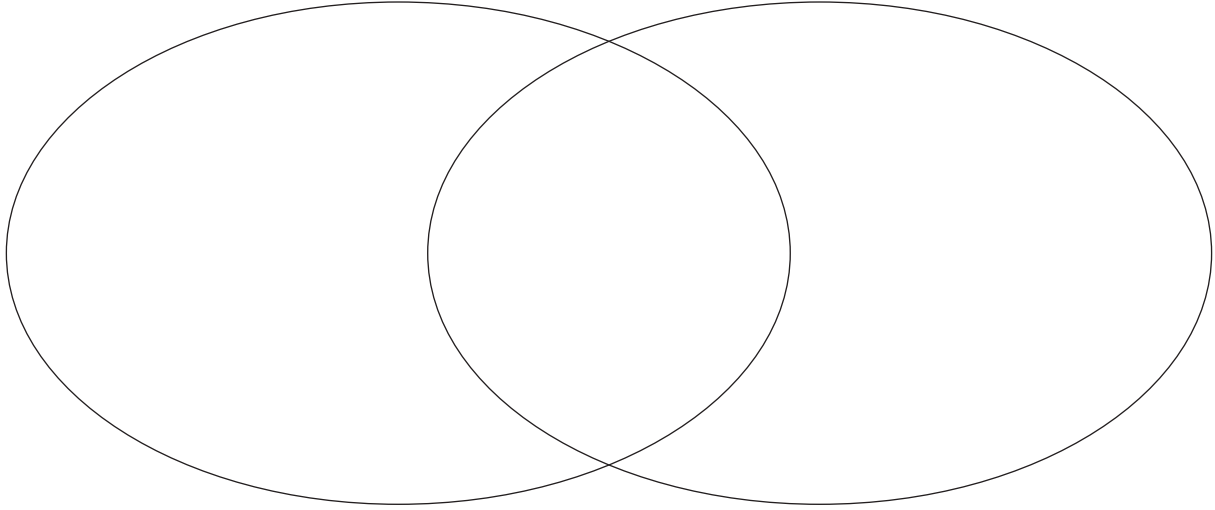


Did you know?

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

Kate has described what life is like in Jakarta and Perth. Vivian has also described what it's like in her neighbourhood in Jakarta. Both cities have major differences and some similarities. Label this Venn diagram and list what you have learnt in in the Venn diagram below.



Interview a friend

Come up with your own 3 questions and ask a friend what solutions they have to help keep the air healthy.

