

The Wizard's Corner



We need more than spells and magic to help clean the air. The *Wizard of Air* is here with answers to your every day air questions.

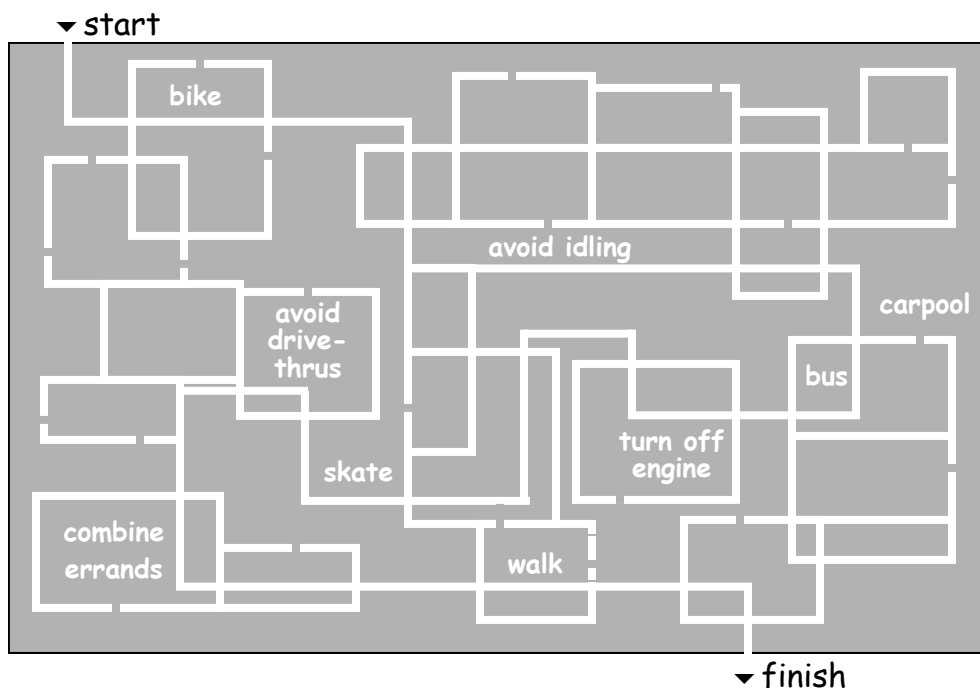
Q: Last weekend we went up to Mt. Lemmon, and when we were driving back home, I noticed a brown haze over Tucson. What is it?

A: The brown haze that you can sometimes see over Tucson and other cities is caused by tiny particles of air pollution that are carried by the wind. Particles can come from vehicle emissions, and other sources like businesses, and power plants. Anyway, some sunlight is absorbed by these particles, while other light gets scattered away before it can be observed. More pollutants mean more absorption and scattering of light, which reduce the clarity and color of what we see. We are also getting less rain than we used to. When it rains, pollutants get washed out of the air. When it rains less, the air doesn't get washed as much and we see more haze.

Breathing air pollution is not good for us either, and we are trying to reduce air pollution by getting people (you and me included) to drive less. There are loads of ways we can drive and idle less. See if you can find some good ways for you and your family in the list below.

- ◆ Ride a bike
- ◆ Walk to nearby places
- ◆ Take the bus
- ◆ Combine errands into one trip
- ◆ Park your vehicle in the lot and walk in instead of using drive-thrus
- ◆ Ride a scooter, skateboard, or in-line skate
- ◆ Have your parents turn off their vehicle while waiting to pick you up from school
- ◆ Share rides (carpool) with friends
- ◆ If you're unsure if a place is open, phone ahead before you drive there
- ◆ Avoid driving during rush hour traffic
- ◆ Turn your vehicle off while stopped at a train track

Brain Busters: A-Maze-ing Modes

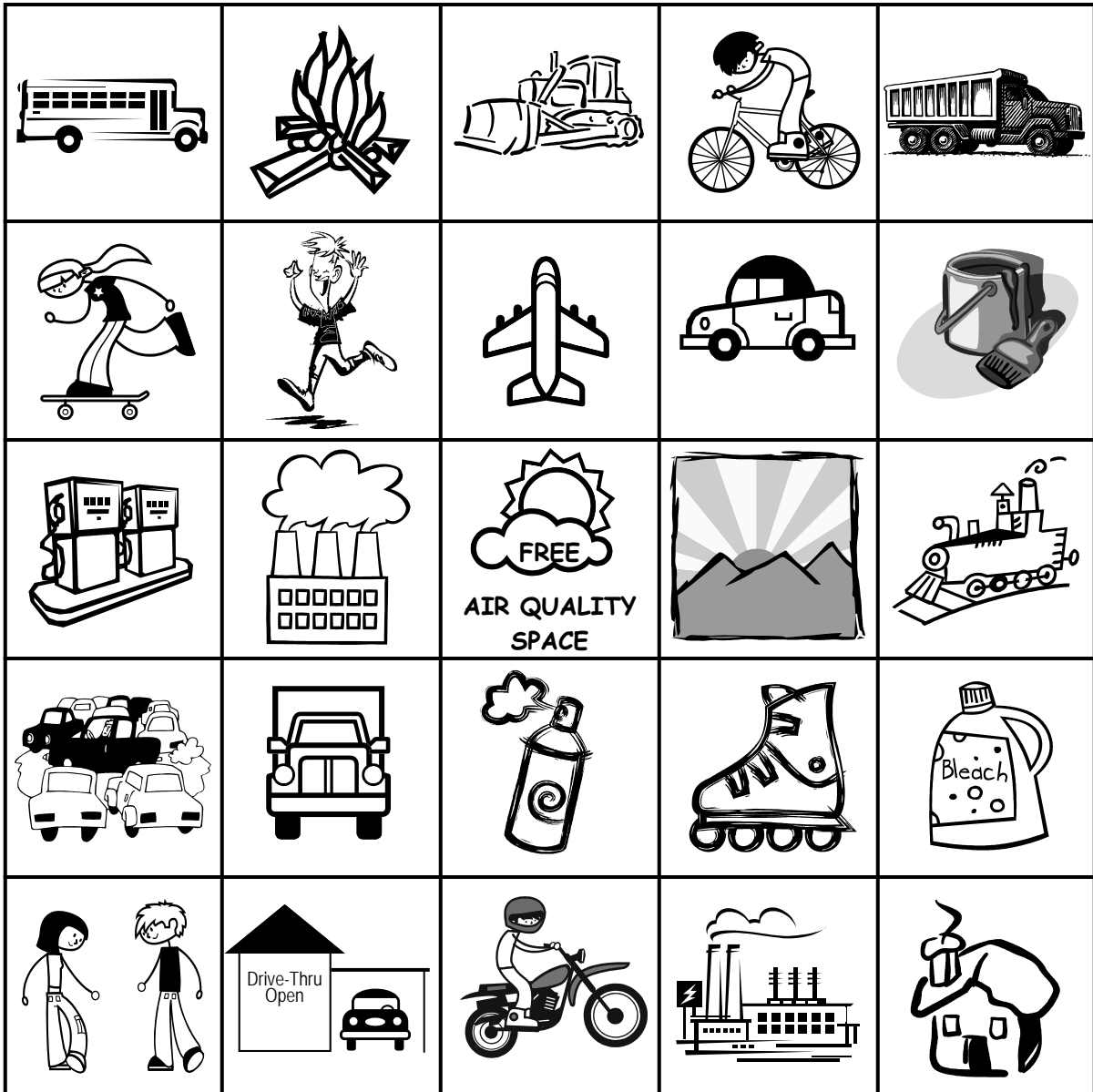


Sometimes trying to figure out air quality problems can be as complicated as a maze. As with any problem, we should look at all the options and take the clearest path.

Can you find the solution and make your way through the maze? Can you think of any other words that help clean our air? Write them into the maze!

FUN FEATURE: Air Quality BINGO

Here's a game to play when you're out and about or on a trip. When you see one of the objects pictured below, color it with pencils, crayons, or markers. If you are playing with a friend, the first person to see an object can mark it on their card. To win, color all the objects in a straight line, or play black out and color all the objects as you see them. Have fun!





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 Tucson, AZ 85701
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 Phone: 520.740.3340

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- Why is the sky blue?
- Funnies • Wizard's Corner
- Brain Busters • Air BINGO
- Special Events

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Special Events: Save the Dates! **Recommended Reading**

Int'l Walk to School Day, October 3, 2007 ←

Walk or bike to school with friends, school mates, or parents to help reduce air pollution and make our streets safe. **Take the Walking School Bus Challenge**, an eight-week contest where students track how much they walk or bike to school. Contact your school to register, or for more information call 205-8309 or click www.walktoschool.org.

Car Care Check-Up, October 2007 ←

Have your parents drive your family vehicle(s) in for FREE under-the-hood, tires, emissions, and gas cap checks. Call 740-3947 or click on www.deq.pima.gov for date, location, or more info.

**Stars Beneath Your Bed
 The Surprising Story of Dust
 by April Pulley Sayre**

Dust may seem small, dark, dirty, and dull. But it's the secret behind one of the largest, most colorful sights on earth.

Dust comes from things we do every day. It can come from unexpected things. The dust under your bed might be part of a comet or may have even muddied a dinosaur!

**Brain Busters
 Sky Color Word Search**

Look for the words about the color of air listed below. They may be forward, backward, horizontal, vertical, or diagonal.

- | | | |
|------------|-----------|---------|
| BLUE | BREATHE | BROWN |
| CARS | CHEMICALS | COLOR |
| DIRTY | DRIVE | FUMES |
| GASSES | HAZE | LIGHT |
| PARTICLES | RED | SCATTER |
| SUN | SUNSET | TRUCKS |
| WAVELENGTH | WHITE | |

L I G H T A X Z S C E T W R Q
 P M U J H B T I L K W R I E L
 W A V E L E N G T H O U E D L
 H M E E B N W O R L D C S U N
 I S A B R E T T O B E K R P L
 T A C H E M I C A L S S C E B
 E E H A A P B P Y U R L E R A
 R N A S T M R U C E A H L E I
 V H E L H I O F E H C E L T P
 G A S S E S W R E S P E C T E
 V Z E R Y O N D R I V E R A E
 S E M U F S E I L F Z W X C Q
 W E R T Y P A R T I C L E S U
 I O S U N S E T P A S D F G H
 J K L Z X C V Y B N M A E I O