



Air Quality



Pollution Catchers

KS1 and KS 2 appropriate

Concepts, skills and qualities taught:

This exercise may be used to increase children's awareness of their surroundings and the air that they breathe. It can raise their awareness about sources of air pollution, how it may be measured and lead onto discussions about how it may be reduced. The activity allows the children to be creative in their designs and to compare results obtained from this simple experiment. Making the wind pollution catchers may be linked to promoting active travel to school to help to keep the air clean.

Suggested age range: Ages 6 and up

Materials needed: Card, scissors, pencils or pens, sellotape, petroleum jelly, hole punch and string.

The activity:

Discuss how we must breathe air to live. Road vehicles create dust and gases which make our air dirty and are bad for our health. Tell the children that we are interested in seeing how much dust there may be in the air that we breathe. Ask the children for ideas of where they think the air will be the dirtiest (near busy roads at school, in the locality and at home).

Give the children pieces of card and ask them to draw around the templates (or make your own designs). Then ask them to cut out the shapes to make pollution catchers. One side of the catcher can be decorated with bright colours. On the reverse side of the catcher, cover about a one-inch square with pieces of clear sellotape. Smear petroleum jelly onto the sellotape.

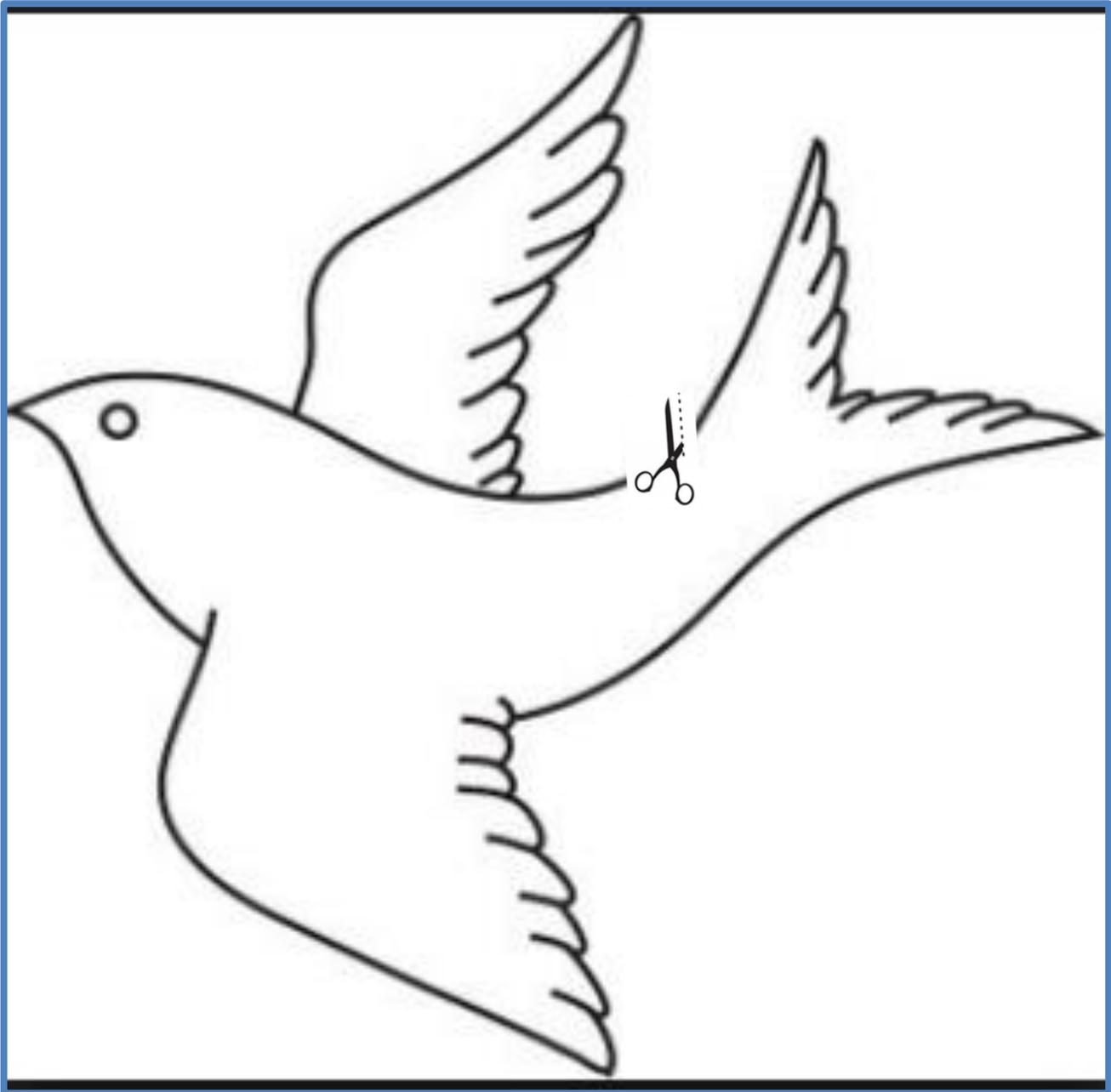
Using the hole punch make a hole in the top of the catcher. Thread the hole with a loop of ribbon or string so they may be hung up. Ask the children to take their pollution catchers home and to hang them up in their homes or gardens for an agreed number of days (at least two days). Pollution catchers may be hung up in the school grounds. (The catchers may need to be laminated before putting on the petroleum jelly if they are to be hung outside in wet weather).

The children should then bring the catchers back to school to see whose catchers have gathered the most dust particles on the patch of petroleum jelly. Discussions about where the dirtiest wind pollution catchers were hung will lead to discussions about cars being the main source of air pollution in towns and the adverse impacts it has on our health.

Choosing to travel on quieter streets, away from busy traffic is a more pleasant experience and is better for your health. This may also lead to talking about how travelling actively is good for the environment and keeps you fit.



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Further activities that are linked:

Sensory mapping exercise.

Other equipment may be used to measure air pollution such as diffusion tubes.