



Air Quality



Basil Boulders

KS1 KS2 appropriate

Concepts, skills, and qualities taught:

This exercise can be used to encourage active travel to school along routes away from busy roads with cleaner air. It can also be used to encourage use of Park and Stride sites.

Where: In the classroom and along safe paths away from busy roads and traffic.

Numbers required: Any number of children.

Suggested age range: Ages 5 and up

Materials needed: Clean pebbles (these may be bought from garden centres or DIY stores), pencils, permanent marker pens or paints, PVA glue and paintbrushes.

Time required: About 30 minutes.

This activity could be linked to your school's Modeshift STARS award as a W11 Initiative.

The activity:

This activity may be coupled with a lesson covering active travel and how it may improve our health and fitness and also raise awareness about the impacts of air pollution caused by road vehicles (see www.myjourneyhampshire.com/air-quality for more information).

The teacher can choose an appropriate theme for the images on the pebbles. For example, the children could be encouraged to think about the nature that they enjoy seeing when they are walking or playing outside in parks and gardens. The children could then decide on an animal or plant to draw on the pebbles. They could also put a letter, word or phrase on the back of the stone.

They should use pencils to initially draw their images on stones and then colour them in pen or with paints. These should be varnished using PVA glue and left to dry overnight.

Adults or groups of children then place the stones at intervals along the safe route to the school and the children are invited to try and find them when they next walk to school. They could also encourage parents to take a picture of the stone where it is found and to share it on twitter using @myjourneyhants. They should bring their stone into school to show the class and to talk about how they felt travelling along the route where the stones are located. They can then replace the stones in the



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same place on their way home in the evening to be found again by other children.

Trees and vegetation can play an important role in improving urban air quality. An example of how painted pebbles may also be used to encourage gardening may be found at <https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/resources/activity/painted-pebbles>

Other ideas for pebble designs may be found at <https://www.familiesonline.co.uk/local/south-west-hampshire/in-the-know/the-painted-rock-craze-hits-southampton>