

Making an Alphabet Book



Target Grade Levels

Kindergarten - Fifth

Time

Two to five class periods, depending on the choice of books.

Materials

- access to dictionaries, encyclopedias, and the library
- air quality Tip cards
- meteorological forecasting notes
- air quality glossary
- magazines
- scissors
- glue or tape
- pencils, crayons, etc.

Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)

- Science:
 - Make wise choices in the conservation of resources;
 - Describe ways technology influences human capacity to modify the environment;
 - Give examples of scientific discoveries and technological innovations that have shaped the world;
- Math:
 - Represent as in a graphic organizer; summarize making charts; and
- Visual Arts:
 - Produce visuals.

Overview

Making an air quality alphabet book is a fun learning experience for students. It can be used in many subjects as well as help students learn about a topic through research, drawing, writing and completing a finished product.

Background Information

Learning about air quality helps people to protect themselves and others from ground-level ozone pollution by teaching them about things they can do to reduce air pollution all year long.

Air Quality Health Alert days are the hot, sunny days that meteorologists forecast as being the most likely to produce excessive amounts of ground-level ozone in the air we breathe. They occur during ozone season, between April 1 and October 31, when the San Antonio area has the most sun and the most heat. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's team of meteorologists forecasts Air Quality Health Alert days based on weather conditions. Certain weather conditions, like sun and heat, are part of the conditions that turns pollution into ozone. On Air Quality Health Alert days, people can protect their health by limiting outdoor activity, or staying indoors where ozone pollution is up to 50% less than outdoors.

Ground-level ozone is unhealthy in the air we breathe. It can hurt our eyes, noses and lungs. It is especially bad for people who have asthma or other breathing problems, people who work or play strenuously outdoors or for the elderly. Even when it's not ozone season in San Antonio, we can still take actions by helping teach people about ozone, pollution and activities that reduce air pollution year round.

Procedure

1) Vocabulary

See full vocabulary list in Appendix A for words students can use.

2) Activities

- a) Look at other alphabet books. (Recommended: *Animalia* by Grahame Base.)
- b) Assign letter of the alphabet to individuals, partners, or groups.
- c) Have students do research to find the core word for each page, if brainstorming does not help them agree on a particular word. Research can include air quality terms in Appendix A, Internet search, or visiting the school library.
- d) Have the students create sentences for each of the pages that include nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs plus other words if wanted or necessary. The sentences should explain the word's role in air quality
- e) The students will work together designing the pages of the book, putting pictures of the words/activities/etc. in context, and including other relevant air quality words that begin with the same letter.
- f) When they are finished, students will share their pages, explaining their work to class.
- g) Make the book available to others.