

Air Pollution Experiment

Find out what's in your air

When we look around we don't usually 'see' the air, so it can be easy to assume it is clean. In reality, air is made up of mostly invisible gases and particles, and it can be difficult to tell if the air is clean or polluted. Scientists can use complex sensors to determine what is in the air. In this experiment, we will make a basic sensor to detect particles in the air around us.

What you need

A piece of white or clear plastic (container lids or clamshell packaging from your recycling bin work great!)

Petroleum jelly

Blank white paper or surface

Tape (optional)



Instructions

1. Coat the top of the white or clear plastic with petroleum jelly
2. Identify a location where you want to test the air and find a place to put the plastic. If you want to test the air outside, you may have to tape your plastic to a heavier object so it doesn't blow away!
3. Leave your experiment out for at least 24 hours
4. At the end of your experimental time, collect the experiment and bring it inside. If you used a clear piece of plastic, place it on a white sheet of paper or a light coloured surface
5. Examine the top of the plastic for any particles collected. Try to identify what you see!

[Source: education.com](http://education.com)



BONUS

If you have access to a microscope and slides at your school, you can see your collected particles in even more detail!

[Find out more here](#)

Walktober