



Name: _____
 Class/Date: _____

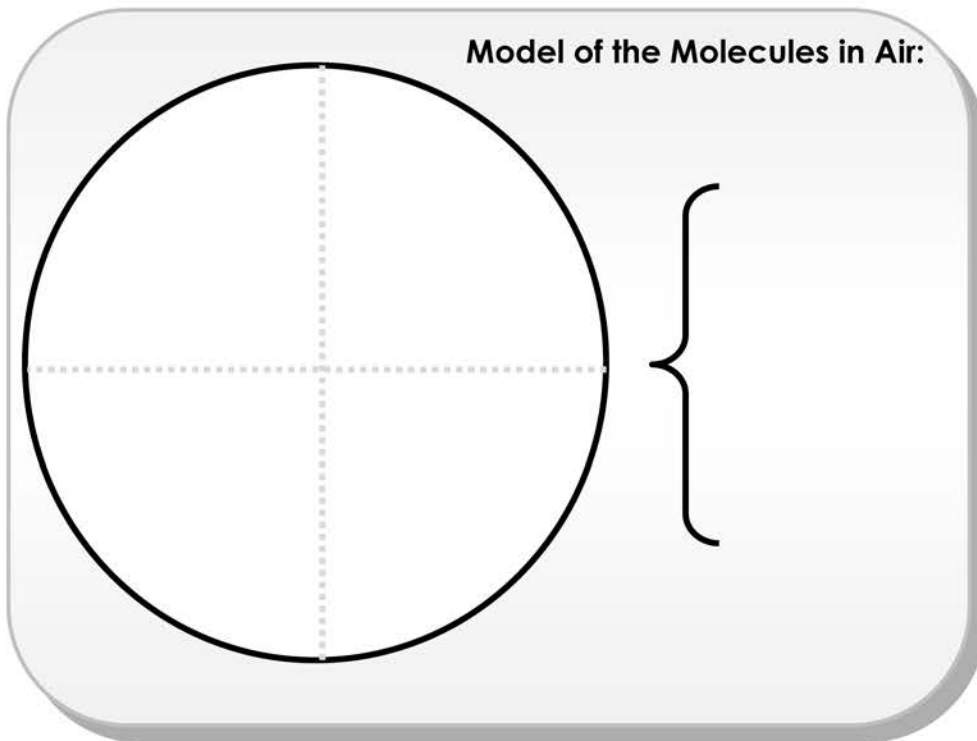
Atoms and Molecules: Understanding Air

Climate Change

Part 1: What is Air?

Activity 1 What is air made of? Guess! A B C D (Circle the letter.)

Activity 2 Build with LEGO! Next, draw the model below. (Copy the whole LEGO mat.) Use the key provided for the brick colors. Label the molecules and add the percents.



Key for the drawing:

Draw this =	Color =	Element
	= white =	_____
	= black =	_____
	= blue =	_____
	= red =	_____

CO₂ level written on the LEGO mat = _____ PPM
 Safe upper limit for CO₂ level = _____ PPM

PPM = Parts Per Million (parts per 1,000,000)

Activity 3 Practice figuring out PPM:
 Calculate the PPM of 80% nitrogen in air
 Calculate the PPM of 20% oxygen in air

N₂ = _____ PPM
 O₂ = _____ PPM

Show your work (hint: use fractions)

Mauna Loa Observatory, Hawai'i

Monthly Average Carbon Dioxide Concentration



The Mauna Loa atmospheric CO₂ measurements constitute the longest continuous record of atmospheric CO₂ concentrations available in the world. The Mauna Loa site is considered one of the most favorable locations for measuring undisturbed air because possible local influences of vegetation or human activities on atmospheric CO₂ concentrations are minimal and any influences from volcanic vents may be excluded from the records. The methods and equipment used to obtain these measurements have remained essentially unchanged during the 46-year monitoring program. Because of the favorable site location, continuous monitoring, and careful selection and scrutiny of the data, the Mauna Loa record is considered to be a precise record and a reliable indicator of the regional trend in the concentrations of atmospheric CO₂ in the middle layers of the troposphere.

Year	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual	Annual-Fit
1958	-99.99	-99.99	315.71	317.45	317.50	-99.99	315.86	314.93	313.19	-99.99	313.34	314.67	-99.99	-99.99
1959	315.58	316.47	316.65	317.71	318.29	318.16	316.55	314.80	313.84	313.34	314.81	315.59	315.98	316.00
1960	316.43	316.97	317.58	319.03	320.03	319.59	318.18	315.91	314.16	313.83	315.00	316.19	316.91	316.91
1961	316.89	317.70	318.54	319.48	320.58	319.78	318.58	316.79	314.99	315.31	316.10	317.01	317.65	317.63
1962	317.94	318.56	319.69	320.58	321.01	320.61	319.61	317.40	316.26	315.42	316.69	317.69	318.45	318.46
1963	318.74	319.08	319.86	321.39	322.24	321.47	319.74	317.77	316.21	315.99	317.07	318.36	318.99	319.02
1964	319.57	-99.99	-99.99	-99.99	322.23	321.89	320.44	318.70	316.70	316.87	317.68	318.71	-99.99	319.52
1965	319.44	320.44	320.89	322.13	322.16	321.87	321.21	318.87	317.81	317.30	318.87	319.42	320.03	320.09
1966	320.62	321.59	322.39	323.70	324.07	323.75	322.40	320.37	318.64	318.10	319.79	321.03	321.37	321.34
1967	322.33	322.50	323.04	324.42	325.00	324.09	322.55	320.92	319.26	319.39	320.72	321.96	322.18	322.13
1968	322.57	323.15	323.89	325.02	325.57	325.36	324.14	322.11	320.33	320.25	321.32	322.90	323.05	323.11
1969	324.00	324.42	325.64	326.66	327.38	326.70	325.89	323.67	322.38	321.78	322.85	324.12	324.62	324.60
1970	325.06	325.98	326.93	328.13	328.07	327.66	326.35	324.69	323.10	323.07	324.01	325.13	325.68	325.65
1971	326.17	326.68	327.18	327.78	328.92	328.57	327.37	325.43	323.36	323.56	324.80	326.01	326.32	326.32
1972	326.77	327.63	327.75	329.72	330.07	329.09	328.05	326.32	324.84	325.20	326.50	327.55	327.46	327.52
1973	328.54	329.56	330.30	331.50	332.48	332.07	330.87	329.31	327.51	327.18	328.16	328.64	329.68	329.61
1974	329.35	330.71	331.48	332.65	333.09	332.25	331.18	329.40	327.44	327.37	328.46	329.58	330.25	330.29
1975	330.40	331.41	332.04	333.31	333.96	333.59	331.91	330.06	328.56	328.34	329.49	330.76	331.15	331.16
1976	331.74	332.56	333.50	334.58	334.87	334.34	333.05	330.94	329.30	328.94	330.31	331.68	332.15	332.18
1977	332.92	333.42	334.70	336.07	336.74	336.27	334.93	332.75	331.58	331.16	332.40	333.85	333.90	333.88
1978	334.97	335.39	336.64	337.76	338.01	337.89	336.54	334.68	332.76	332.54	333.92	334.95	335.50	335.52
1979	336.23	336.76	337.96	338.89	339.47	339.29	337.73	336.09	333.91	333.86	335.29	336.73	336.85	336.89
1980	338.01	338.36	340.08	340.77	341.46	341.17	339.56	337.60	335.88	336.01	337.10	338.21	338.69	338.67
1981	339.23	340.47	341.38	342.51	342.91	342.25	340.49	338.43	336.69	336.85	338.36	339.61	339.93	339.95
1982	340.75	341.61	342.70	343.56	344.13	343.35	342.06	339.82	337.97	337.86	339.26	340.49	341.13	341.09
1983	341.37	342.52	343.10	344.94	345.75	345.32	343.99	342.39	339.86	339.99	341.16	342.99	342.78	342.75
1984	343.70	344.51	345.28	347.08	347.43	346.79	345.40	343.28	341.07	341.35	342.98	344.22	344.42	344.44
1985	344.97	346.00	347.43	348.35	348.93	348.25	346.56	344.69	343.09	342.80	344.24	345.56	345.90	345.86
1986	346.29	346.96	347.86	349.55	350.21	349.54	347.94	345.91	344.86	344.17	345.66	346.90	347.15	347.14
1987	348.02	348.47	349.42	350.99	351.84	351.25	349.52	348.10	346.44	346.36	347.81	348.96	348.93	348.99
1988	350.43	351.72	352.22	353.59	354.22	353.79	352.39	350.44	348.72	348.88	350.07	351.34	351.48	351.44
1989	352.76	353.07	353.68	355.42	355.67	355.13	353.90	351.67	349.80	349.99	351.30	352.53	352.91	352.94
1990	353.66	354.70	355.39	356.20	357.16	356.22	354.82	352.91	350.96	351.18	352.83	354.21	354.19	354.19
1991	354.72	355.75	357.16	358.60	359.34	358.24	356.17	354.03	352.16	352.21	353.75	354.99	355.59	355.62
1992	355.98	356.72	357.81	359.15	359.66	359.25	357.03	355.00	353.01	353.31	354.16	355.40	356.37	356.36
1993	356.70	357.16	358.38	359.46	360.28	359.60	357.57	355.52	353.70	353.98	355.33	356.80	357.04	357.10
1994	358.36	358.91	359.97	361.26	361.68	360.95	359.55	357.49	355.84	355.99	357.58	359.04	358.88	358.86
1995	359.96	361.00	361.64	363.45	363.79	363.26	361.90	359.46	358.06	357.75	359.56	360.70	360.88	360.90
1996	362.05	363.25	364.03	364.72	365.41	364.97	363.65	361.49	359.46	359.60	360.76	362.33	362.64	362.58
1997	363.18	364.00	364.57	366.35	366.79	365.62	364.47	362.51	360.19	360.77	362.43	364.28	363.76	363.84
1998	365.32	366.15	367.31	368.61	369.29	368.87	367.64	365.77	363.90	364.23	365.46	366.97	366.63	366.58
1999	368.15	368.87	369.59	371.14	371.00	370.35	369.27	366.94	364.63	365.12	366.67	368.01	368.31	368.30
2000	369.14	369.46	370.52	371.66	371.82	371.70	370.12	368.12	366.62	366.73	368.29	369.53	369.48	369.47
2001	370.28	371.50	372.12	372.87	374.02	373.30	371.62	369.55	367.96	368.09	369.68	371.24	371.02	371.03
2002	372.43	373.09	373.52	374.86	375.55	375.41	374.02	371.49	370.71	370.25	372.08	373.78	373.10	373.07
2003	374.68	375.63	376.11	377.65	378.35	378.13	376.62	374.50	372.99	373.00	374.35	375.70	375.64	375.61

Monthly values are expressed in parts per million (ppm) and reported in the 2003A SIO manometric mole fraction scale. The monthly values have been adjusted to the 15th of each month. Missing values are denoted by -99.99. The "annual" average is the arithmetic mean of the twelve monthly values. In years with one or two missing monthly values, annual values were calculated by substituting a fit value (4-harmonics with gain factor and spline) for that month and then averaging the twelve monthly values.

Part II: Burning Fuel: Complete Combustion

Activity 1 Complete combustion is a chemical reaction in which all the fuel is burned. Record the complete combustion reaction from the LEGO mat. Use chemical symbols.

Reactants
(What we burn)

Products
(What we find in the exhaust)



Part III "Global Warming and the Greenhouse Effect" Videos

Activity 1 Listen to the video "Global Warming and the Greenhouse Effect"

- Name 2 weather-caused disasters:
- Name 3 contributors/offenders:
- Explain how a greenhouse gas works:

Activity 2 Examine the Data Table: "Monthly Average Carbon Dioxide Concentration" on page 2. Record the measurements for 1990 and 2000 here.

Year	Annual CO ₂ PPM
1990	
2000	

What was the increase in CO₂ PPM between 1990 and 2000?

1) The CO₂ increased ____ PPM in 10 years.

Assume that the increase will be the same every 10 years:

2) Predict the CO₂ PPM in 2010: ____ PPM

3) Predict the CO₂ PPM in 2020: ____ PPM

Find out* the CO₂ PPM now:

4) Measured CO₂ PPM in _____: _____ PPM
(year)

Think about it! CO₂ levels are rising... faster or slower than predicted.
(circle one)

Activity 3 Listen to the video "Global Warming: the Physics of the Greenhouse Effect"

- Why is the greenhouse effect usually a good thing?

- Where is the carbon dioxide coming from?

* website: <http://co2now.org/>

Part IV: Human Health

Activity 1 Use the Interactive “Climate Change and Human Health.” Select a topic:

- Airway Diseases Developmental Disorders Mental Health Disorders
 Vectorborne Diseases Waterborne Diseases

- Describe the issue you chose and one or two examples of what could go wrong.

- Describe one or two things we can do.

Part V: Proposed Solutions

Activity 1 Discussion of what we can do.

Describe some general approaches

(Optional) Activity 2 View interactive: “Capturing Carbon Where do we put it?”

Click on the options to get explanations and to learn the advantages and disadvantages of each

(Optional) Activity 3 View the slide: “The Carbon Cycle”

Notice where the carbon is moving. One industry produces a lot of carbon dioxide.

Final Check for Understanding:

What other activities besides driving cars do millions of people do that emit tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere?