



Week 2: Right to clean air

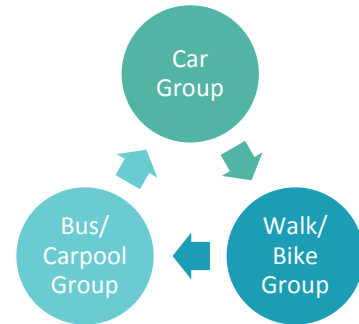
Grade level:	K-6
Time:	30 minutes
Location:	Classroom or outside
Materials:	Balls and badminton rackets (or table tennis paddles, tennis rackets)
Purpose of the activity:	To experience team work; to think about air quality and how our actions contribute to air pollution
Rights and responsibilities:	Right to clean air (Article 24 of the CRC); for all to enjoy this right, we need to be conscious of how we produce air pollution

Activity: Up in the air!

1. Ask children to describe different ways people get to school or work (e.g., car, bus, carpool, bike or walk).
2. Divide children into three teams. One will be the car group. Another will be the bus/carpool group. The third will be the walk/bike group.
 - Each child in the **car group** gets one ball and one racket (because they are taking one car per person to get to school). Each is to keep the ball in the air by bouncing it on the racket.
 - Each child in the **bus/carpool group** gets one racket (because they are all travelling in one vehicle to get to school). They work as a team to keep one ball from falling on the ground by bouncing it on their rackets or rolling it from one racket to another.
 - Each child in the **walk/bike group** gets one ball (because they are not using any vehicle and so are not creating air pollution). They can keep the ball in the air by using their hands.

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4. Distribute the appropriate number of balls and rackets to each group.
5. Once most of the balls have dropped to the floor, rotate the groups two times.
6. The activity ends when each child has had a turn at each group.



Group discussion questions

- Which group had the easiest task? Which group had the most difficult task? Why?
- Each group represented a way to get to school or work. Each contributes to air pollution in different amounts. Which group contributes the most air pollution? Which group contributes the least air pollution? Which group contributes no air pollution?
- What are some other ways we create air pollution? *Share some of the Super facts below.*
- What can we do to reduce the amount of pollution we produce? *Decide on one or more of the Superhero missions below to do.*

Super facts

- We pollute the air when we make the air unclean to breathe. “[Emissions](#)” include exhaust from cars and factories, fumes from fires and other material that ends up in the air.
- We should all have the right to clean air. But [air pollution is the largest environmental factor affecting Canadians’ health](#). It results in hospital visits, sick days and premature deaths.
- [Air pollution affects kids more than adults](#) because, for their body size, kids breathe more air and spend more time playing outside. [One in eight children in Canada has asthma](#). Air pollution makes it harder for children with asthma to breathe.
- Cars produce more air pollution than any other single human activity. In Canada we rely on cars, trucks or vans for transportation. In 2011, 11.4 million Canadian workers drove to work. [Four out of five Canadian commuters use private vehicles](#) to get to work! [One full commuter bus means 40 less cars](#) going through your neighborhood.
- The [best way to reduce air pollution](#) is to walk or ride a bicycle.

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Superhero missions

- **Investigate:** Investigate the different sources of air pollution near your school or home. For example, stand on the sidewalk and count the number of cars with just a driver. Try to think of different ways those drivers could be getting from one place to another.
- **Protect:** Protect clean air by decreasing the amount of pollution you produce. Ride a bicycle or walk to school instead of driving. Buy local foods from your grocery store. They travel a shorter distance to get from the farm to the store than food grown farther away. *Do the Suzuki Superhero activity on the right to nutritious food to learn more!*
- **Educate:** Share Super facts with a friend or family member. Encourage them to take on a Superhero mission.