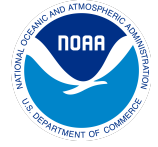


“The Pandemic & Air Quality” StoryMap Comprehension Questions



How-to: As you read, stop at each **BLUE** question and reflect on what you understand in the story and in the data visualization in that section of the StoryMap. [Click here for StoryMap.](#)

1. Our baseline question:
 - With such a disruption to our lives and the global economy, what changes did we see in the atmosphere? What would be your guess? There's no wrong answer.

2. COVID-19 Cases
 - Do you remember when you first heard about the virus? Who told you?

 - What do you remember about the beginning of the pandemic? How did you respond?

3. Global Lockdown Restrictions
 - How did *your* life change?

 - What do you think happened to the environment while people stayed home?

 - Were you and your family able to stay home? If not, why?

Transportation & Traffic

4. Vacation
 - Did your family travel less during the early days of the pandemic?

5. Car Travel

- Why do you think there was less change in diesel consumption than gasoline consumption over the same time period?

6. Ship Traffic

- What do you notice about ship density near the U.S. before and during lockdown?

7. Air Traffic

- We've seen some evidence that *most* people traveled a lot less. How do *you* think that affected Earth's atmosphere?

Air Pollution

8. Nitrogen Dioxide

- What do you notice about NO₂ levels when you compare 2019 (pre-lockdown) to 2020 (post-lockdown)?

9. Air Quality Index

- How would you describe what you see? Which month shows the most improvement in air quality in Asia? What about Europe and North America?
- What does this mean for human health?

Summary

- What does this story leave you thinking about?
- What would you say if your friend asked you, "What happened to the environment during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown?"

Extension Activity

The storymap uses compelling means of visualizing data such as graphs, maps, and image-sliders as a way of telling a story. The story of how changes in human activities caused an effect on Earth's air quality. Everyone has their own story of how their home and family life changed dramatically in the first half of 2020. How could you tell the story of your life during lockdown through similar data visualizations? What data would you want and how could you best represent it? Using the visual you found most interesting from the StoryMap as a model, sketch a visualization that tells the story of your lockdown.