

Name:

Date:

Class:

Environmental Justice StoryMap #3: Air Quality and Transportation Answer Key

Instructions: Complete the following questions as you explore the [Environmental Justice StoryMap #3 Air Quality & Transportation](#)

StoryMap #3 Link: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/18ab8a8450ff4dd39af5ad39cc8f8877>

Think About It: Watch the [video](#) and think about what you observe:

1. How would you describe what "environmental justice" means?
A variation of the official EJ definition: Environmental justice (EJ) is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.
2. What are some examples of environmental injustice in the video? Who is most impacted by environmental injustices?
Unequal access between white and diverse communities to healthy foods, greenspaces, etc.
3. Do you think our transportation system provides environmental justice for all?
Diverse and low-income communities are most affected by air pollution and air quality and other EJ issues.

Check for Understanding #1:

4. Which communities are most affected by air pollution and poor air quality?
The EJ movement started in the U.S. in the 1982 when people from a predominantly black community protested the toxic waste dump in their community in North Carolina.
5. Describe why air pollution and air quality are environmental justice issues.
People and families who have lived in the same community for generations may not have the financial ability or desire to leave their neighborhood, even though it is unhealthy, to move to a cleaner, healthier community.

Name:

Date:

Class:

Check for Understanding #2:

6. Describe why environmental justice is a human right?

All people have the right to clean and healthy air, water, food, etc. but not all communities experience this.

7. Why is it challenging for people to move from an unhealthy neighborhood so they can have the right to clean air, water, and a healthy environment?

The development of the U.S. interstate system went through diverse communities even though they opposed it and white communities were successful in rerouting the interstate in certain areas, which is a form of environmental injustice.

Check for Understanding #3:

8. Which communities experience the most adverse effects of the U.S. Interstate Highway System?

Communities of color and low-income communities experience the most adverse effects of the interstate system.

9. How does the Interstate Highway System impact these communities?

The interstate system displaced homes and businesses of diverse and low-income communities thereby disrupting the connectedness and wealth potential of these communities. Expansion of the interstates is again impacting the same communities in the same way.

Check for Understanding #4:

10. Do certain communities tend to have greater asthma rates?

Communities of color and low-income communities tend to experience greater asthma rates.

11. Do certain communities tend to have a greater percentage of their workforce at risk of poor air quality?

Communities of color and low-income communities tend to experience a greater percentage of their workforce at risk of poor air quality.

Name:

Date:

Class:

Check for Understanding #5:

12. Describe any patterns that you observed between the locations of low-income and communities of color and areas of high traffic.

Communities of color and low-income communities tend to be in areas of high traffic.

Discussion: Engineering Connections

13. Do you think our current roadway infrastructure impacts all communities equally? Why?

Answers vary.

14. Describe the relationships between air quality, roadways, and environmental justice in low-income and communities of color in your own words.

Answers vary.

15. How do you think different types of electric vehicles (EVs) and alternative energy sources can be utilized to help to create more equitable transportation systems for all communities, especially low-income and communities of color?

Answers vary.