

Air We Breathe Story Board Game

Background

The Air We Breathe is a picture book designed to introduce Earth's atmosphere and its importance to life on Earth. It also introduces how the addition of new gases contributes to changing the quality of air we breathe. With an understanding of how our atmosphere works, we will begin to understand how our activities may be contributing to some of those changes in air quality. This game aligns with the National Standards for Science that state that kindergarten through fourth grade should begin understanding properties of earth materials, changes in earth and sky, as well as objects in the sky.

How to Play

Read through the Air We Breathe narrative on the story board with the student, and every time you stop at a blank, ask the student to choose which picture would be best to finish the sentence.

Suggested Introduction

Take a deep breath....what are you breathing?

How do you think the air stays on the Earth?

It is the atmosphere, a protective layer that keeps all of the elements, like oxygen, close to us and able to breathe and live.

You seem to know a lot about the air and Earth, and I have a story that I could use your help with. Can you help me fill in the blanks with the pictures?

Game Answers

Our home planet is **EARTH**. Just like astronauts need their **SPACE HELMETS**, Earth needs protection too. We call our layer of protection the **ATMOSPHERE**. The atmosphere is quite thin. If the Earth were the size of an **APPLE**, the atmosphere would be as thin as its skin. The atmosphere might be small, but it protects **HUMANS**, **PLANTS**, and **ANIMALS** in a big way. The atmosphere protects us from the blazing, hot **SUN** and gives us the air we breathe. Pollution from **CARS**, **FACTORIES**, **VOLCANOES**, and **FIRES** can make our air dirty. We can protect our home by **RECYCLING**, **PICKING UP LITTER**, **CARPPOOLING**, and more. The more we learn to protect our planet, the happier we'll be!

Suggested Conclusion:

So what did you learn about the air on Earth?

Just because we can't see the atmosphere, that doesn't mean it isn't protecting us. It is also important to know that the atmosphere is always changing, and NASA makes sure to study all of the different parts of the atmosphere with special instruments to understand what makes it change.