Extension Activity

With a partner, brainstorm ideas we in the United States could help reduce air pollution? Write down your ideas to be shared with the class

Journal prompt- 50 word response to be written on back of this paper. What would you think if you woke up one morning and found the sky to be “black” from air pollution??? What would you do?

Enrichment Activity

Compare and contrast Germany’s acid rain problem with the United Kingdom’s air pollution problem.

SS6G9 The student will discuss environmental issues in Europe.

Guided Reading Questions

1. What is the main cause of air pollution in the United Kingdom today?
2. What is one of the United Kingdom’s solutions to the air pollution problem?
3. What was created after the great smog of 1952
4. What solution began to create cleaner air?

Guided Reading (Air Pollution in the United Kingdom)

The air in London is very polluted. In fact, this has been a problem for over a century. In 1905, the word “smog” was created to describe the air in London. Smog is air pollution caused by sunlight acting on the gases from automobile and factory exhausts. It hangs over cities in a thick fog. In 1952, smog was so bad in London, people could not see in front of them. This was known as the great smog of 1952. Transportation came to a standstill, crime increased, and thousands of people died from the pollution. This came as a wake up call to people all over the world. They began to worry about the air they were breathing. The UK’s major natural resources are oil, natural gas, and coal. Manufacturing in the UK uses these resources. The Industrial Revolution began around the coalfields because fuel was cheap and in abundance. Most people worked in these coalfields and today the coal fuels the power plants. Most homes still use coal to cook with and keep their homes warm. Although there is a reduction in the amount of coal being used, this causes a problem in the loss of jobs from the coalfields. Smoke and Sulfur dioxide from burning coal are the major source of air pollution. Exhaust from gasoline and diesel fuel are also major concerns. Medical problems such as asthma and pneumonia are also linked to air pollution. Air pollution burns the nose, lungs, and eyes and endangers human life. Air pollution also threatens wildlife. Cleaner coals, increased use of electricity and use of gas have reduced air pollution. There are now laws in place to help with air pollution. After the great smog of 1952, “smokeless zones” were created to help pollution. In these areas, only smokeless fuels could be used. Air quality is checked by the government on a regular basis. Although air quality has improved greatly, the United Kingdom still ranks in the top ten in the world in harmful industrial emissions.