

### Student Activity Worksheet: Keep Up With Your Air Quality

**Directions:** Read the *Science News* article "[Wildfires aren't going away. Here's how smoke can affect your health](#)" and answer the questions below as directed by your teacher.

1. Who are the experts interviewed in the article? Introduce each person with their job title and where they work. Do you think they are reliable sources on this topic? Explain why.
2. What is the AQI and what is its purpose? What does it indicate? Describe the range of possible scores and what they mean for health. Look at the box titled "Gauging air quality" in the *Science News* article and visit the [AirNow](#) website to help you answer these questions.
3. What are health effects that can occur from exposure to unhealthy AQI levels? Use both the *Science News* article and the AirNow website to answer the question.
4. Visit [airnow.gov](#) and enter your zip code. What are the current AQI scores for your area? Include what each score measures. Check the air quality forecast: is anything predicted to change over the next few days?
5. Given your area's current AQI score, are there possible health effects from spending time outdoors? If so, what are they? Would you feel comfortable doing outdoor activities?

Extension: Read the article "[Analyze This: Wildfires are pumping more pollution into U.S. skies.](#)" With a partner, discuss what data or other information could be useful to include as background in the article "[Wildfires aren't going away. Here's how smoke can affect your health](#)" that interviews pollution experts. Then, write a short paragraph summarizing the important information and explain where it would best be inserted into the article.

