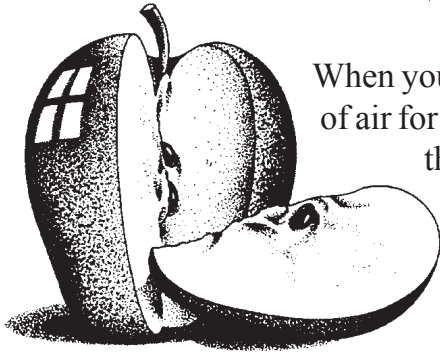


How much air do we breathe?



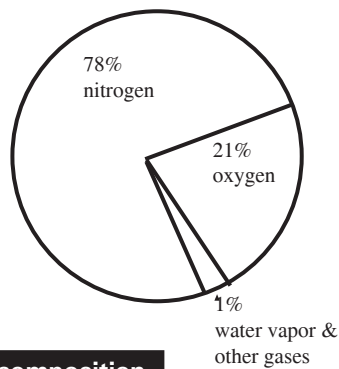
When you stop and think about air, it may seem like there is an unlimited supply of air for us to breathe. Actually, our breathing space is a thin layer of air around the Earth. For comparison, if the Earth was the same size as an apple, the layer of air we breathe would be similar to the thickness of the skin of an apple.

What is air?

Since air is invisible, we aren't always aware that it is there. Air is a mixture. It contains many things, mostly gases, that we can't see. Gases move around easily and do not have shape.

One fifth of the air we breathe is made up of oxygen (21%) and the rest is nitrogen (78%) and small amounts of argon, carbon dioxide and other gases and water vapor (1%).

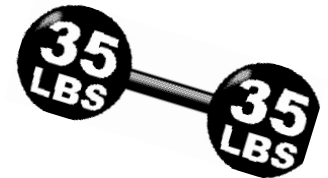
The only part of the air that people and animals use is the oxygen. Plants help us breathe by giving off oxygen.



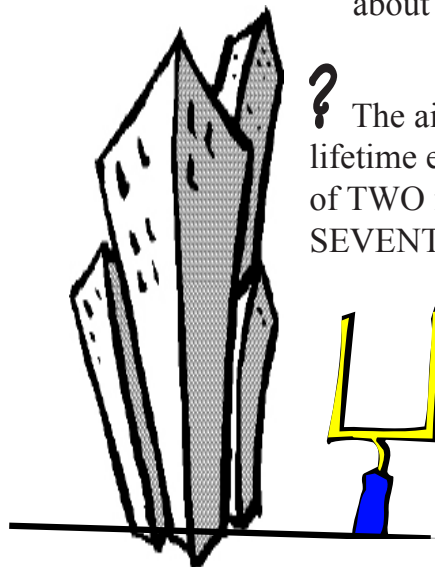
composition of air

DID YOU KNOW?

? Each day you take over 20,000 breaths and breathe about 35 pounds of air.



? That's like breathing the weight of a four year old. And in your lifetime, you may take about 625 million breaths.



? The air we breathe in a lifetime equals the volume of TWO football fields, SEVENTEEN stories high!

Spokane
Regional
Clean Air Agency

Fun

AIR

activities

Handmade Parachute

Materials:

plastic shopping bag
string
paper punch
paper hole reinforcers

plastic figure or a nut or bolt
to use as a weight

1. Cut open the shopping bag and lay it flat.
2. Now cut a square from the bag (the dimensions are not important - any medium sized square will work).
3. Now make a hole in each corner of the square with the paper punch and reinforce with a paper ring if desired. Cut 4 equal lengths of string approximately 12" long.
4. Tie each string to a corner. Now tie on your weight.
5. Ready for launching?
6. Hold the parachute and weight together and throw it up into the air.

You can also launch it from a window or a tree.

Kite Activity

Materials:

one sheet of 8 1/2 x 11" typing paper
one 8" bamboo shish kabob stick
masking tape (or clear adhesive tape)
plastic shopping bag for the tail
ruler
string to fly with
paper punch (optional)

1. Decorate the paper with stickers, crayons, or markers. Fold the paper in half to 8 1/2 x 5 1/2".
2. Measure 1 1/2" down from the fold along the right-hand side of the page and make a mark.
3. Next, measure and mark 4" down from the fold, along the left-hand side of the page. Using the ruler and pencil, draw a line connecting the two marks. This is your fold line.
4. Fold the paper back along the line. Then turn the paper over and fold the other side even with it.
5. Place a strip of tape along the top of the new fold, taping them together, holding it as if it were a paper airplane (the folded sides are your 'wings').
6. Place it down on its back and fold the flap (or kneel) back and forth until it stands upright (otherwise it will act like a rudder and spin the kite in circles).
7. To make a support for your kite, place the bamboo skewer across the kite between the two widest points. Trim if necessary, and tape into place.
8. Punch a hole in the keel of your kite about one third down from the top (not too close to the edge or it might pull out!)
9. Make a tail by cutting a plastic shopping bag into a 1" wide spiral all around. You will need 6 to 10 feet of tail, depending upon the wind conditions. Tape into place at the bottom of the kite.
10. Tie kite string securely through the hole on the keel and fly her away!