Timeline crib sheet

A useful video and guide for teachers about air quality through time: <http://www.learnaboutair.com/primary/history.html> source: Learn about air quality

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| Time Period | Description | Fact |
| 10,000 BC | Stone age | In the stone age, some 10,000 years ago, smoke produced from fires covered the walls of caves in black soot and was breathed in by the cavemen. Lungs of mummified bodies that are thousands of years old from Egypt and Peru are frequently black. |
| 50AD | Romans | The smelting of lead became widespread during the time of the Roman empire. Lead was used for piping & water storage and the particles & emissions from the smelting process were spread across the globe, appearing in studies of arctic ice for signs of historic global pollution. It was also noted by the writers and philosophers of the time who noted the pollution was visibly scarring the buildings of ancient Rome & affecting their health.  Find out more about [Roman air pollution](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/air-pollution-has-been-a-problem-since-the-days-of-ancient-rome-3950678/) |
| 1800-1900 | Industrial Revolution | This was the time of the Industrial Revolution when many factories were opened, and the main source of power was coal. The air was heavily polluted from the chimneys of factories and other industry. Around 1860 it was noticed that air pollution was so bad in some areas it was killing crops and other plant life. Following lots of complaints from the public and an enquiry, the Government realised that had to take action and the first air pollution laws were passed in 1863. A national group of inspectors were put in place at this time and over the years other laws have been passed to improve our air quality. |
| 1908 | First commercial automotive | The first petrol car was invented by Karl Benz in 1886. At first there were very few cars on the road, so they didn’t have a huge effect on air quality but through the 20th century the numbers exploded and by the 1980s, the numbers of vehicles on the road was rapidly increasing and so were emissions of nitrogen dioxide and fine particles.  Find out more about [Karl Benz](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Karl-Benz) |
| 1945 | First Nuclear Bomb | During the final stage of World War II, the United States detonated two nuclear weapons over the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, 1945 respectively. The United States dropped the bombs after obtaining the consent of the United Kingdom, as required by the Quebec Agreement. The two bombings killed 129,000–226,000 people, most of whom were civilians. They remain the only use of nuclear weapons in the history of armed conflict. |
| 1952` | Great smog of London | The great smog of London took place in December 1952. Smog is a mixture of smoke and fog, this incident lasted in London for five days. This smog led to 4000 additional deaths in London. This resulted in the Government realising action had to be taken to improve air quality.  Find out more about the [Great Smog of London and also the Great Stink](https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/discover/londons-past-air) |
| 1956 | Clean Air Act | The result of the Great Smog of London was the introduction of the Clean Air Acts 1956 and 1968. These acts banned emissions of black smoke and made residents in urban areas and factories use smokeless fuel.  Find out more about the [Clean Air Act](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Eliz2/4-5/52/enacted) |
| 1986 | Chernobyl Disaster | The Chernobyl disaster was a nuclear disaster which occurred on 26 April 1986 at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Pripyat, Ukraine. At that time, Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union.  The event was the worst accident in the history of nuclear power. Because there was no containment building to trap the radiation, radioactive fallout drifted over parts of the western Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, Scandinavia, the UK, and the eastern United States. Large areas of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia were badly contaminated. About 60% of the radioactive fallout landed in Belarus. About 350,000 people needed to be evacuated (moved away) and moved to other places where they could live after the accident. |
| 1990 | Environmental Protection Action (and air pollution control by local authorities) | The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (initialism: EPA) is an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom that as of 2008 defines, within England and Wales and Scotland, the fundamental structure and authority for waste management and control of emissions into the environment.  Find out more about the [Environmental Protection Act 1990](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents) |
| 1997 | First commercial hybrid car | In 1997, the world witnessed the launch of the first commercial hybrid car in the form of Toyota Prius. |