

**Air Pollution** Every living creature relies on clean air to survive. Acid rain forms when sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide (produced by burning fuels) are released into the air. Carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides and sulphur dioxides are some of the most dangerous gases produced during the burning of fossil fuels. Gases are not the only air pollutants that we should be concerned about. Tiny bits of dust, metal, soot and other materials also find their way into the atmosphere from manufacturing plants, construction sites, wood burning stoves and cars. Also, sometimes rain contains chemicals called acids that can harm the environment including plants and animals living on land and in the water, as well as damage buildings and other manmade structures such as monuments, roads and vehicles. Industry and transportation produce most of the air pollution, releasing millions of tons of harmful substances into the environment each year. The burning of fossil fuels (coal and oil) is the source of or generates most of the world's energy. Air is made up of a mixture of gases, mainly oxygen and nitrogen, with small amounts of carbon dioxide plus water. The gases that cause acid rain are released by power plants, factories and transportation.