

## Where Does the Dust Hide?

This interactive activity gets kids moving to collect “dust” around the classroom and learn that dust can be found just about anywhere.

### Materials

- Bag of cotton balls
- Small paper bags

### Initial Discussion with Kids

Air pollution can make people sick. We can sometimes see pollution in our outdoor air. Think about what you see outside that might make the air dirty (help kids if they need it to think of some of these things...car and truck exhaust, factory emissions, pollen from plants, smoke from wildfires/campfires/woodstoves, volcanoes. Share the picture).



## Where Does the Dust Hide?

Did you know that air pollution can be inside too? One type of air pollution in our houses is dust! Dust can hide in all sorts of places in our homes and even at school. Just like outdoor air pollution, dust indoors can get into our lungs and might make us sneeze, cough or not feel as good.

### Activity

1. Have the kids become “Dust Busters.”
2. Use cotton balls to represent dust and put dust in different areas of the classroom. Remember to put it in spots that may be trickier to find (such as corners and on window sills).
3. Have the kids search for the dust and collect it in paper bags.

### Discussion Questions with Kids

- Where did you find your dust? Was it in a surprising place?
- Where might you find dust at home?
- How can we help to get rid of the dust in the classroom/home?

### Discussion Points

- Help the kids think of the trickier spots they might find dust at home (like on top of the refrigerator and on top of doors).
- When discussing how they could clean up dust at home, some may say using a dry duster or using a cleaning solution. This can make indoor air pollution worse! Describe that using a feather duster or a dry rag to clean up dust just kicks it back into the air, putting you back at square 1. Cleaning solutions can sometimes have harmful ingredients in them. The best way to dust is by getting a cloth just a little bit wet and wiping down all the hard surfaces in the home or classroom. Vacuuming at least 1 time each week is also a great way to reduce the dust in the home.
- We can also reduce the dust coming into the home by taking off shoes when we come inside.