

Name:

Date:

Class:

Connecting to the Big Picture Handout **Answer Key**

Topic: Indoor Air Quality in Your Home

1. List three sources of pollutants in your home.

Explain what each source is and what pollutants may be emitted.

Example 1: A **kitchen stove** may emit carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and even volatile organic compounds (from heating food, especially fatty foods).

Example 2: A **fireplace** likely emits carbon dioxide, volatile organic compounds, and particulate matter (such as the smoke).

Example 3: **People and animals** emit carbon dioxide via respiration. While not harmful, an accumulation of CO₂ can indicate that a home is poorly ventilated. Animals also give off dander, which is a type of particulate pollutant.

2. Is your home well-ventilated? How might ventilation impact air quality?

Answers will vary. A drafty home is generally perceived as being better ventilated, while a well-sealed home seems to have less ventilation and air exchange; the existence of central air also makes a difference.

3. Do you think the air quality in your home is pretty good? Why or why not?

Answers will vary since this is an open-ended question left to students' interpretation. But, generally expect students to make the connection that *either* few pollutant sources and/or good ventilation lead to better indoor air quality, while more pollutant sources and/or poor ventilation lead to less good air quality.