

You've learned that seasonal weather and events like wildfires can impact air quality, but did you know that GEOGRAPHY plays a part too?

Warm polluted air normally rises and disperses into the atmosphere,... but sometimes weather does weird things and flips right on it's head!

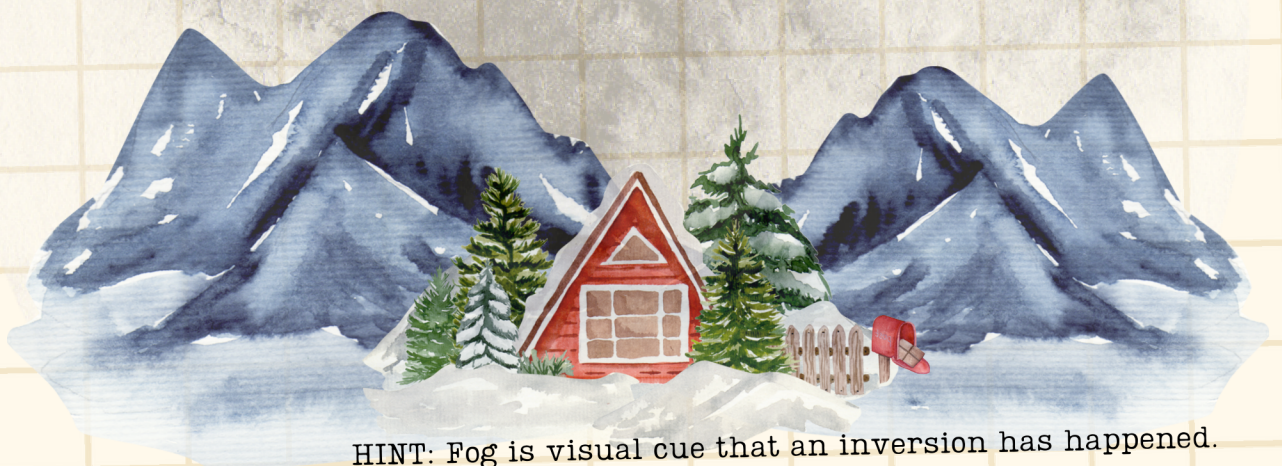
It's called a **temperature inversion**, and it means that polluted air gets stuck under a blanket of warm air and can't rise. This usually happens on cool, clear nights when the temperature drops quickly...and especially around low-lying ground!

A city has more cars, more factories, and more people so it makes sense for a city to have more pollution, right? ... BUT...

**IMAGINE** that you live in a small country town in a valley. Most homes burn wood for heat, and when you woke up today it was very cold and foggy. It seems like the fog just won't go away! You have a headache, and your friend's asthma is acting up.

... What do you think is happening?

What can you do to help the air get back to normal?



HINT: Fog is visual cue that an inversion has happened.