

Nelumbo nucifera: Air Pollution and Lungs

Subcategory: Global Studies

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This is the poster reflecting the severe environmental issue, particulate matter (PM), one of the examples of air pollution.

It was identified by the World Health Organisation (WHO) that particulate matter is carcinogenic to humans. If the respiratory system, organs directly affected by PM, is exposed to PM, lungs that are immature will be generated for infants whilst deleterious illnesses for lungs and premature death are unavoidable for adults.

To reflect this issue, I utilised an image of the stem of the lotus flower (*Nelumbo nucifera*) to represent lungs with the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), a group of diseases that have been linked with PM. The alveoli of lungs afflicted with COPD resemble the dark brown holes of cigarette butts. This also resembles the stem of the lotus flower due to the similar dark brown colours and the numerous holes in the stem. Consequently, the poster aims to use shocking imagery to inspire people to protect their lungs from PM by reducing air pollution.