

TOPIC 7.3

Thermal Inversion

Required Course Content

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING

STB-2

Human activities have physical, chemical, and biological consequences for the atmosphere.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

STB-2.C

Describe thermal inversion and its relationship with pollution.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE

STB-2.C.1

During a thermal inversion, the normal temperature gradient in the atmosphere is altered as the air temperature at the Earth's surface is cooler than the air at higher altitudes.

STB-2.C.2

Thermal inversion traps pollution close to the ground, especially smog and particulates.

SUGGESTED SKILL

 *Visual Representations*

2.C

Explain how environmental concepts and processes represented visually relate to broader environmental issues.



AVAILABLE RESOURCES

- Classroom Resource > [AP Environmental Science Teacher's Guide](#)