ACID RAIN

National Atmospheric Deposition Program
What is acid rain?

Rain, snow, fog, or hail that carries pollutants (acids) from the air to the ground.
More About Acid Rain

Acid rain:

- Changes with the weather and seasons
- Changes within short distances
- Can carry pollutants long distances, even to other countries
Natural Causes of Acid Rain

- Lightning
- Volcanoes
- Rotting plants and grasses
Man-Made Causes of Acid Rain

- Exhaust from cars, trucks, and buses
- Power plants that burn coal
- Pollution from industry
Location of Acid Rain

Highest in areas with

• Large cities
• Large population
• Heavy car traffic
Acid Rain Can Be Harmful

**Forests & Lakes:**
- Leaves and trees become damaged
- Trees will more likely have a disease or insect problem
- Certain types of fish may die

**Plants & Crops:**
- Plant roots can’t grow properly
- Soils lose nutrients that are healthy for plants
Acid Rain Can Be Harmful

**Humans:**
- People can have respiratory problems when they inhale small droplets (fog)
- Lead and copper from rusty pipes can dissolve into drinking water

**Man-Made Materials:**
- Metal structures and cars become corroded
- Limestone buildings, tombstones, statues, and monuments wear down more quickly
Hydrogen ion concentration as pH from measurements made at the Central Analytical Laboratory, 2008

Sites not pictured:
- AK01 5.2
- AK03 5.3
- PR20 5.2
- VI01 5.3

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