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Scientists discover the world's cleanest air – 6th June, 2020

Level 4

Scientists found what they think is the cleanest air on Earth. Researchers conducted research on the purity of the air above Antarctica. An area between the south of Australia and Antarctica was "unaffected" by human activity. The analysis of the air in the clouds showed it was free from "anthropogenic aerosols". These are pollutants from human activity, or dust from other continents. The scientists called this pollution-free area, "truly pristine".

The scientists analysed microbes in the clouds. They tracked where the DNA of the microbes came from. They monitored the wind to see how far the microbes travelled. They found the atmospheric eco-system was "isolated" and free from contaminants from elsewhere in the world. The microbes came from the Southern Ocean rather than other continents. The Southern Ocean is one of very few places on Earth "minimally affected" by pollution.

Level 5

Scientists discovered what they think is the cleanest air on Earth. Researchers from Colorado and Australia conducted research on the purity of the air above Antarctica's Southern Ocean. They found a region between the south of Australia and Antarctica "unaffected" by human activity. Scientists say the area formed the atmosphere in the lower clouds. The analysis of the air showed that it was free from "anthropogenic aerosols". These are pollutants or particles from human activity, or dust from other continents. The scientists called this pollution-free area, "truly pristine".

The scientists analysed airborne microbes in the clouds over the Southern Ocean. They tracked where the DNA of the microbes came from. They monitored wind trajectories to detect how far the microbes travelled. They found that the atmospheric eco-system was "isolated," self-contained, and free from contaminants from elsewhere in the world. The microbes came from the Southern Ocean rather than other continents. The researchers concluded that the Southern Ocean is one of very few places on Earth that has been "minimally affected by anthropogenic activities".

Level 6

Scientists have discovered what they believe to be the cleanest air on Earth. Researchers from Colorado State University and the Australian Bureau of Meteorology conducted research on the purity of the air above Antarctica. They found a region over the Southern Ocean, between the south of Australia and Antarctica, that was "unaffected" by human activity. The scientists said the area they researched formed the atmosphere in the lower clouds. The analysis of the air showed that it was totally free from "anthropogenic aerosols". These are pollutants or particles derived from human activity, or dust from other continents. The scientists called this pollution-free area, "truly pristine".

The scientists analysed the structure of airborne microbes in the lower clouds over the Southern Ocean. They looked at the DNA of the microbes and tracked where they came from. Their analysis included monitoring wind trajectories to detect how far the microbes may have travelled. They found that the atmospheric eco-system was very much "isolated," self-contained, and free from contaminants from elsewhere in the world. The source of the microbes was the Southern Ocean, rather than airborne pollutants from other continents. The researchers concluded that the Southern Ocean is one of very few places on Earth that has been "minimally affected by anthropogenic activities".