Three Ways to Display How Air Quality Is Measured

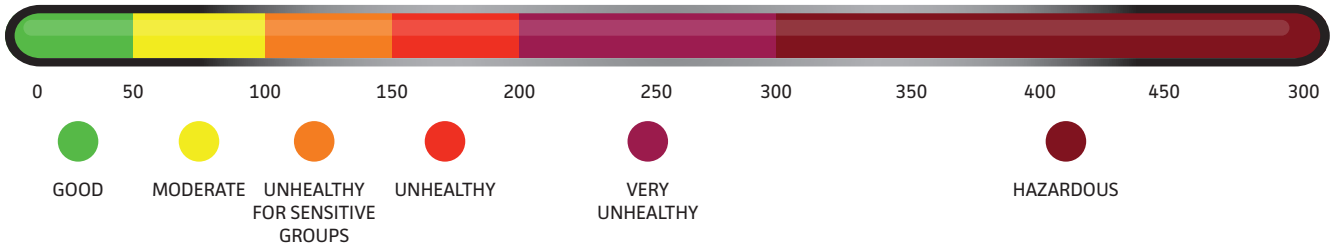
You are encouraged to consider what different representations serve the purposes of your lesson. For example, the one that looks more like a number line may be useful for building a bar graph, while others might emphasize a color associated with a number and more in-depth descriptions.

1. Table model— Can be useful to orient students to ideas of air quality, and serve as a reference for interpreting AQI index values.

Daily AQI Color	What are the AQI index values?	What does it mean?
Green	0 to 50	**Good**: Air quality is satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk
Yellow	51 to 100	**Moderate**: Air quality is acceptable, but there may be a risk for some people, particularly those who are sensitive to air pollution.
Orange	101 to 150	**Unhealthy for sensitive groups**: Members of sensitive groups may experience adverse health effects. The general public is less likely to be affected.
Red	151 to 200	**Unhealthy**: Some members of the general public may experience health effects. Members of sensitive groups may experience more severe health effects.
Purple	201 to 300	**Very Unhealthy**: The risk of adverse health effects is increased for everyone.
Maroon	301 and higher	**Hazardous**: Health warning of emergency conditions, where everyone is more likely to be affected.

Adapted from: https://www.airnow.gov/aqi/aqi-basics/

2. Numberline model— preserves scale. Can be useful to build a bar graph based on the measure of air quality.



3. Bar model— representing the categories, does not preserve scale. Can be useful for displaying the range, or when sorting by category is the priority.