Main activity

Using the teacher slides, show students the video of Climate Activist Maxine Jimenez talking about how pollution and heat waves have affected her community in Los Angeles.

Allow students to share what they notice, wonder, and relate to in Maxine’s story. Is there pollution of this kind in their community? Why do some communities have to deal with more pollution than others? Is it fair that some people live in environments that are becoming more and more polluted than others?

Note on Access and Equity: Depending on your group of students, they may or may not be able to relate to Maxine’s experience. If you live in an urban or suburban setting where air pollution can be a problem, encourage students to see similarities between their experience and Maxine’s. In this way, Maxine is helping us create a mirror through which we can relate to our own lives. If your community is located in a suburban or rural area with less air pollution, invite students to look through a window and see the realities of people who live in more urbanized areas.