

Form 4: The Problem with Bottled Water

Part 2

My Name: _____

Today's Date: _____

My Teacher's
Name: _____

My Grade (Circle One): 6th 7th 8th

Directions: When you worked on Part 1 of this activity you worked with a partner. This time, you are going to work **by yourself**. Read the first article, *The Problem with Bottled Water* by Mark Acosta. Questions 1 – 10 ask about the first article **only**.

- Circle the letter (A, B, C, or D) to show your answers.
- Each question has only **one answer**.
- You may look back at the article at any time.
- **You must answer the questions by yourself.**

1 What is the **main reason** Mark Acosta wrote his article?

- A. To persuade people not to buy bottled water
- B. To persuade people to use bottles that can be recycled
- C. To teach people about how plastic bottles are made
- D. To compare the cost of bottled water and tap water

2 Read this sentence from paragraph 1. Choose the word that is closest in meaning to “**discarded**.”

*The problems include: pollution created during the production and transportation of bottled water, injuries to marine life from **discarded** bottles, and ugly garbage dumps filled with empty bottles.*

- A. Moving
- B. Broken
- C. Gathered together
- D. Thrown out

3 Choose the word that is the best fit for the sentence below.

Factories that make plastic bottles _____ the air when they release different types of chemicals.

- A. Pollution
- B. Pollute
- C. Pollutant
- D. Polluter

- 4 Read these sentences from paragraph 2. Which word does “**These**” refer to?

*Plastic water bottles are typically made from crude oil. During their production, pollutants such as nickel, benzene, and ethylene oxide are released. **These** harm the environment and pollute the air we breathe. It takes 1.5 million barrels of oil to produce the plastic water bottles we use each year.*

- A. Water bottles
- B. Crude oil
- C. Pollutants
- D. Barrels of oil

- 5 Read this sentence from paragraph 7. Then, choose the sentence that has the closest meaning.

Many people are simply unaware of the harm caused by this problem and are willing to change their behavior when they find out how the environment is being affected.

- A. People are stuck in their habits and cannot change.
- B. People only care about environmental problems when their health is affected.
- C. It is difficult to spread the news about problems caused by using too much bottled water.
- D. If people knew about the problems caused by using too much bottled water, they might change their habits.

6 Why does the author include information in paragraph 3 about how long it takes for a plastic bottle to decompose?

- A. To give details about the process that turns a plastic bottle into soil.
- B. To show that garbage dumps will be a problem for a long time.
- C. To show the problems faced by ocean animals.
- D. To show the large number of bottles that are in garbage dumps.

7 What does the author **imply** in paragraph 5? (When you *imply* something, you *suggest* it without saying it plainly.)

Across the United States, people can turn on sink faucets to get some of the cleanest, healthiest tap water on Earth. Almost all chemicals and impurities have been removed to make this drinking water clean and safe. It is also inexpensive. On average, a gallon of tap water costs a small fraction of one cent. Considering these facts, the obvious question is, "Why do Americans drink so much bottled water?"

- A. There is no good reason to prefer bottled water.
- B. People believe that bottled water is expensive.
- C. Bottled water and tap water cost about the same.
- D. Water prices in the United States differ from other parts of the world.

8 What does the author say about the harm caused by Americans' use of bottled water?

- A. It cannot be changed.
- B. It is something many people don't know about.
- C. It only hurts ocean animals, like sea turtles.
- D. It affects more than 26 billion people.

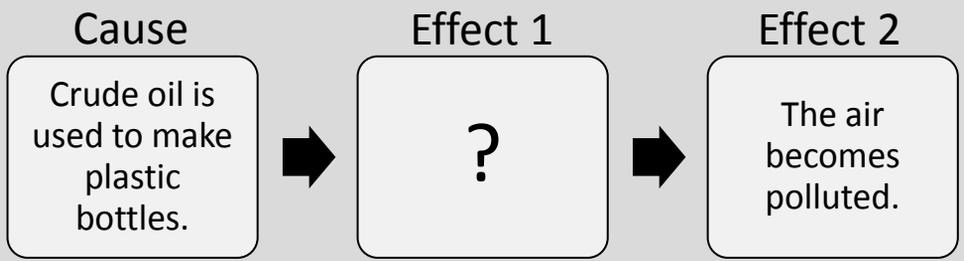
9

Which of these statements would Mark Acosta **probably** say to Wendy Black?

- A. "Bottled water tastes better than tap water."
- B. "You should try using reusable bottles."
- C. "Recycling centers cause pollution and harm the environment."
- D. "The price of bottled water is getting lower."

10

The graphic organizer below shows the information in paragraph 2. Paragraph 2 describes how plastic bottles are made. Choose the sentence that fits in the blank in the graphic organizer.



- A. Ocean animals mistake plastic bottles for food.
- B. Plastic bottles begin to decompose.
- C. Different types of pollutants are released.
- D. Millions of bottles are left in garbage dumps.

Directions: Now read the letter from **Wendy Black: A Reply to Mark Acosta**.

- **Questions 11 and 12 ask about the letter only.**

11 What is the **main idea** in Wendy Black’s letter?

- A. Sometimes tap water can be dangerous.
- B. Bottled water is healthier for you than tap water.
- C. Every town in the United States now has a recycling program.
- D. It is possible to use bottled water and still care for the environment.

12 What does Wendy Black say about Mark Acosta’s article?

- A. It does not mention pollution problems outside the United States.
- B. It is too negative and ignores the good news about recycling.
- C. It does not mention the taste of tap water
- D. It ignores the problems of water pollution and littering.

Directions: Questions 13 and 14 ask about **both** articles together.

13 On what point would Mark Acosta and Wendy Black probably **NOT** agree?

- A. Plastic bottles can harm ocean animals.
- B. Plastic bottles are made from crude oil.
- C. 30 percent of plastic bottles are recycled.
- D. 26 billion plastic bottles are made each year.

14 What characteristic of **tap water** is mentioned by both Wendy Black **AND** Mark Acosta?

- A. The price of tap water
- B. The way tap water is transported
- C. The way tap water tastes
- D. The chemicals found in tap water