

## Germs Go to School!

Yuck! A health and safety group recently tested school surfaces for germs and found millions! Drinking fountains had the most germs. A cafeteria tray had more germs than a toilet seat! The testers also found germs lurking on desks and computer keyboards.

Kids miss 22 million days of school each year because of colds caught from germs. That number would be much lower if kids would just wash their hands, say health experts.

Not all germs are harmful, but some can make kids sick. "When you share things in a classroom, you increase the chance that you might get sick," the health and safety group's spokesperson, Jerry Bowman, told *Weekly Reader*. "Since we are right in the middle of cold and flu season, we have to be extra careful to wash our hands and cover up [our] coughs."

Health experts say drinking fountains would have fewer germs if they were cleaned more often.



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*Health experts say drinking fountains would have fewer germs if they were cleaned more often.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. In this passage, the author sounds
  - A. concerned about germs in schools.
  - B. happy to drink from school water fountains.
  - C. fearful that he will get sick.
  - D. like he is blaming schools for his cold.
  
2. The author seems to \_\_\_\_\_ with Jerry Bowman about the amount of germs in schools.
  - A. disagree
  - B. None of the above.
  - C. argue
  - D. agree
  
3. In the passage, the author compares the amount of germs on a cafeteria tray to a
  - A. student's desk.
  - B. playground.
  - C. toilet seat.
  - D. drinking fountain.
  
4. The following is caused by not washing hands:
  - A. the spreading of germs.
  - B. more children getting sick.
  - C. germs being found on the water fountain.
  - D. all of the above.
  
5. What evidence can you find in the passage that communicates how the author feels about the amount of germs in schools? Explain.

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Answers will vary. The author begins the passage with 'yuck!' He also includes several exclamation marks which show that he feels emotional about this issue.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is a meaning of the word **harmful**?

- A. at or close to the state of the art
- B. relating to or marked by communism
- C. causing or capable of causing harm

2. What is another meaning of the word **harmful**?

- A. of a kind likely to be damaging
- B. abounding in rocks or stones
- C. the most or greatest possible

**Please use each answer choice only once. Choose the one word that best completes the sentence.**

3. It would also protect a person's lungs from \_\_\_\_\_ air.

- A. harm
- B. harmless
- C. harmed
- D. harmful
- E. harming
- F. harmlessly
- G. harms

4. The oil will \_\_\_\_\_ many more if it reaches the shore.

- A. harm
- B. harmless
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5. For the most part, bacteria are either \_\_\_\_\_ or they help us.

- A. harm
- B. harmless
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6. But the snakes which eat toads are \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. harm
- B. harmless
- C. harmed
- D. harmful
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7. However, people are \_\_\_\_\_ ocean life.

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8. Pollution is anything that \_\_\_\_\_ the environment.

- A. harm
- B. harmless
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9. Smaller rocks bounced off him \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. harm
- B. harmless
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10. Please write your own sentence using the word **harmful**.

11. What would you like to remember about the meaning of the word **harmful** so that you can use it when you write or speak?

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1. What is a meaning of the word **increase**?

- A. make bigger or more
- B. to come into sight
- C. bring forth or yield

2. What is another meaning of the word **increase**?

- A. change location
- B. come to pass
- C. to become more

**Please use each answer choice only once. Choose the one word that best completes the sentence.**

3. This event gives the zoo the opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ awareness about elephant issues both in captivity and the wild.

- A. increased
- B. increasingly
- C. increases
- D. increasing
- E. increase

4. It is \_\_\_\_\_ evident that poor nutrition, lack of exercise, and obesity are a significant problem in this country.

- A. increased
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5. During high tide, the height of the water in this bay \_\_\_\_\_ by as much as 53 feet.

- A. increased
- B. increasingly
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6. As a result, the number of ospreys on the islands is slowly \_\_\_\_\_.

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7. It \_\_\_\_\_ my fury, as the beating of a drum stimulates the soldier into courage.

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- A. a person whose occupation is teaching
- B. the side that is forward or prominent
- C. the outermost level of the land or sea

2. What is another meaning of the word **surface**?

- A. a thing or person tested
- B. any small compartment
- C. the outward appearance

**Please use each answer choice only once. Choose the one word that best completes the sentence.**

3. If their \_\_\_\_\_ have bumps, the objects slow down.

- A. surfaced
- B. surfacing
- C. surface
- D. surfaces
- E. resurface

4. A nuclear submarine only needs to \_\_\_\_\_ to restock its food supplies.

- A. surfaced
- B. surfacing
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5. Glass can be reused for \_\_\_\_\_ highways.

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6. On a rough \_\_\_\_\_, you can see and feel these uneven places.

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