

SKILL: Contrast and Evaluate Fact and Opinion

A Very Helpful Resource

3rd Grade Nonfiction

Center for Urban Education at DePaul University © 2005

Natural gas is a really great resource. It helps people stay warm. It helps them cook. It helps many people in many ways.

To find natural gas, scientists study the land. They look for a kind of rock. That rock is where gas is under the ground. Then explorers dig holes to look for the gas. If they find it, the gas company drills deep holes. Then they put pipes into hole to get the gas. The pipes reach the gas. Then the gas goes in the pipes. It comes up from under ground. It is like the air. It is light. It travels up the pipes.

People used to make gas from coal and oil. That was messy. But they didn't have natural gas everywhere. Then they figured out how to get it from places where it was to places where people needed it. They invented the pipeline.

A pipeline is a very long pipe. It's made of many smaller pipes. They connect each pipe carefully. There are more than a million miles of natural gas pipelines in the United States today.

Outside the city, there is a place where the gas is pumped to homes. It's called the city gate. It's a place where workers measure the gas. They add smell to it so people can tell where it is. They send it into the city through smaller pipes called gas mains. Those are under the ground.

There are many miles of city gas pipes. To protect people in the city, there are shutoff points along the pipeline. The gas company can turn off the gas supply and fix it if there is a problem. The gas company is great. They keep us all warm and safe.

When gas gets to your home, it goes into a small pipe. Then your family has the power you need. Gas helps many people live much better. It is a great resource. It is the best resource we have. Everyone can use it. It helps people get warm. It helps people cook food. It helps in many ways.

Gas comes from under ground to the city. It travels a long way. People need it. It is a wonderful way to help people get energy. It is a great resource.

Directions: Choose the best answer for each question.

1. Which of the words in this sentence tell you it is an opinion? "It is a wonderful way to help people get energy."

- a. wonderful
- b. help
- c. people
- d. energy

2. Which of these is an opinion?

- a. Natural gas is a really great resource.
- b. It helps people cook.
- c. It helps people keep warm.
- d. It comes from deep under ground.

3. Which of these is a fact?

- a. People used to make gas from oil.
- b. That was messy.
- c. The gas company is great.
- d. It is the best resource we have.

4. How do you know if a sentence is a fact?

- a. It tells you what someone thinks.
- b. It tells you how someone feels.
- c. It tells you something real.
- d. It tells you what is important to someone.

5. *Write your own answer to this question.*

Write a sentence from the passage that is a fact.

How do you know it is a fact?

TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	a	a	a	c

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

5. Students should identify a fact and explain that it tells what is real.

SKILL: Contrast and Evaluate Fact and Opinion

Ghana

3rd Grade Nonfiction

By Hannah Lantos

Center for Urban Education at DePaul University © 2008

The Republic of Ghana is a great country in West Africa. The word "Ghana" means "Warrior King." The capital of Ghana is Accra.

Ghana is a very strong country. It has many natural resources. It is also very peaceful. Ghana is a great place to live. The people of Ghana are proud of their country.

Ghana has warm weather. So people can farm. It is a very beautiful country. It has beaches. It has mountains. It has many large green fields. The people are very friendly. They wear beautiful clothes.

Almost 23 million people live in Ghana. The area is about 92,000 square miles.

Long ago, Ghana had a very bad problem. People from Europe came and took over the country. They came to get gold. They found a lot of gold. They set up trading posts. They wanted to trade gold, ivory, and slaves. This was a very bad time for Ghana.

The people of Ghana wanted to be free. They wanted their own country. Ghana gained independence from England in 1957. It was the first democratic African country to gain its independence. This was a very exciting time. It was a great change. The problem finally was over.

The leader of the work for independence was named Kwame Nkruma. His idea still is very important. He wanted Pan-Africanism. This is an idea that all of Africa can work together. Then everyone will be stronger. They will make more progress together. Since independence, Ghana has done this. They have worked with other countries in Africa.

Ghana is a member of the United Nations. That is a group of all the countries in the world. A leader from Ghana had a big job. He became a leader of the United Nations. His name is Kofi Annan. He was elected leader of the United Nations in 1997. He was the leader for 10 years.

Directions: Choose the best answer for each question.

6. Which of the words in this sentence is an opinion? "The Republic of Ghana is a wonderful country in West Africa."

- a. Republic
- b. wonderful
- c. country
- d. Africa

7. Which sentence has an opinion in it?

- a. Read to learn about this great African country.
- b. Ghana has a warm climate.
- c. It has mountains.
- d. Ghana is a member of the United Nations

8. Which of these sentences shows how the writer feels about something.

- a. The capital of Ghana is Accra.
- b. Ghana has a warm climate.
- c. Long ago, Ghana had a very bad problem.
- d. The people of Ghana wanted to be free.

9. How do you know if a sentence tells an opinion.

- a. It sounds real.
- b. It tells how the writer feels.
- c. It has adjectives in it.
- d. It tells history.

10. Write your own answer to this question.

Write a sentence from this passage that is an opinion.

How do you know it is an opinion?

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Answers: You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.

Item	6	7	8	9
Answer	b	a	c	b

Question 10 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

10. Students should identify a statement that is an opinion.