

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.

## Contrast and Evaluate Fact and Opinion – Nonfiction

Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Chicago Public Schools 2008-2009.

*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

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.

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.

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.

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*How do you know it is a fact?*

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