

Skills Worksheet

Active Reading

11.3 Section: Water Pollution

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

The natural process of eutrophication is accelerated when inorganic plant nutrients, such as phosphorus and nitrogen, enter the water from sewage and fertilizer runoff. Eutrophication caused by humans is called **artificial eutrophication**. Fertilizer from farms, lawns, and gardens is the largest source of nutrients that cause artificial eutrophication. Phosphates in some laundry and dish-washing detergents are another major cause of eutrophication. Phosphorus is a plant nutrient that can cause the excessive growth of algae. In bodies of water polluted by phosphorus, algae can form large floating mats, called *algal blooms*. As the algae die and decompose, most of the dissolved oxygen is used and fish and other organisms suffocate in the oxygen-depleted water.

IDENTIFYING MAIN IDEAS

One reading skill is the ability to identify the main idea of a passage. The main idea is the main focus or key idea. Frequently, a main idea is accompanied by supporting information that offers detailed facts about main ideas.

In the space provided, write the letter of the term or phrase that best completes each statement or best answers each question.

- _____ 1. Which of these are examples of inorganic plant nutrients?
- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. eutrophication and oxygen | c. oxygen and algal bloom |
| b. phosphorus and nitrogen | d. farms and lawns |
- _____ 2. Eutrophication caused by humans is called
- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| a. artificial eutrophication. | c. phosphates. |
| b. algal bloom. | d. fertilizer. |
- _____ 3. Which of the following is the best statement of the main idea of this passage?
- | |
|--|
| a. Decomposing algal blooms deplete oxygen from bodies of water. |
| b. Fertilizer runoff causes artificial eutrophication. |
| c. Artificial eutrophication damages bodies of water. |
| d. Phosphates in detergents are the major cause of eutrophication. |

VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT

Read each question and write the answer in the space provided.

4. What is an algal bloom?

Active Reading *continued*

5. Remember that eutrophication is the natural process by which a body of water gains an abundance of nutrients. Explain the distinction between eutrophication and artificial eutrophication.

RECOGNIZING CAUSE AND EFFECT

One reading skill is the ability to recognize cause and effect.

Read each question and write the answer in the space provided.

6. Artificial eutrophication is caused by . _____

7. It happens when.

8. What is the greatest cause of artificial eutrophication?

9. Name another cause of artificial eutrophication.

10. What substance causes an algal bloom to form?

11. Why do fish die in a body of water where an algal bloom has formed?
