Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Skills Worksheet

Active Reading

13.2 Section: The Ozone Shield

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

High levels of UV light can kill single-celled organisms called *phyto-plankton* that live near the surface of the ocean. The loss of phytoplankton could disrupt ocean food chains and reduce fish harvests. In addition, a reduction in the number of phytoplankton would cause an increase in the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Some scientists believe that increased UV light could be especially damaging for amphibians, such as toads and salamanders. Amphibians lay eggs that lack shells in the shallow water of ponds and streams. UV light at natural levels kills many eggs of some species by damaging unprotected DNA. Higher UV levels might kill more eggs and put amphibian populations at risk. Ecologists often use the health of amphibian populations as an indicator of environmental change due to the environmental sensitivity of these creatures.

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.

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

1. Authors sometimes use one person, place, or thing as the main focus of their writing. What group of organisms is the center of focus in the first paragraph of this passage?

   _____

2. Where do these organisms live?

   _____

3. What group of organisms is the center of focus in the second paragraph?

   _____

4. Where do these organisms lay their eggs?

   _____

5. In your own words, state the main idea of this passage.

   _____

   _____

   _____

6. What is notable about the eggs of these organisms?

_____

_____

7. Why do ecologists use amphibians to gauge environmental change?

_____

_____

_____

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.

8. What effect does a high level of UV light have on phytoplankton?

_____

_____

9. If the number of phytoplankton decreases, what happens to the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere?

_____

_____

10. If the number of phytoplankton decreases, what happens to the food chains in the ocean?

_____

_____

11. What effect does UV light have on amphibians?

_____

12. What in an amphibian egg is damaged by UV light?

_____

_____

13. If UV levels are increased, what is likely to happen to amphibian populations?

_____

_____