

News Quiz: Pesticide Use Near Schools



Reading comprehension

Grade Level: 9-12 Lesson time: 30 minutes

Overview

Lookout's News Quizzes are a great way to get students interested in local news in an easy and quick way. These quizzes test reading comprehension while getting students more informed on issues and happenings in the community.

How best to use this guide in your classroom

Articles are sorted by topic and updated frequently. Choose an article related to one of your current teachings. Have students read the article, answer the 10 questions and then share any observations. This could be a great way to give students extra credit opportunities in your class, a great lesson to share when you have a substitute teacher and/or a great icebreaker to connect students with local issues.

LESSON PLAN

- Share this article with your students and have them read it. This can be assigned as homework or done in class (10 min)
Pressure building on pesticides, Driscoll's says it will consider organic-only by schools
- Share the questions with your class and have them answer the questions, either individually or in small groups. Find our Questions doc for a printable or shareable document (10 min)
- Using the answer key, you can either grade this quiz or have a class discussion around it (10 min)

News Quiz: Pesticide Use Near Schools

Read through this article and answer the questions below.



Pressure building on pesticides, Driscoll's says it will consider organic-only by schools

Question 1: What does CORA stand for and what is its mission?

Question 2: Who did CORA appeal to to stop spraying near schools in the Pajaro Valley?

Question 3: What are some ways that pesticides are detrimental to a person's health, according to the article?

Question 4: What do agriculture industry advocates say in response to complaints about pesticide spraying?

Question 5: According to the regulations passed in 2018 by the state, within what distance do farmers need to inform schools of their pesticide usage?

Question 6: Why do the activists want pesticide spraying near schools stopped?

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Question 7: Name two government agencies or organizations involved with pesticide regulation and oversight.

Question 8: What does first-grade teacher Sarah Legions (mentioned first thing in the article) say her teenagers had to do when they were young that her baby daughter might not have to in the future?

Question 9: What questions or concerns do you have after reading this article?

Question 10: BONUS: Not addressed in the article, but can be found elsewhere online:
What is organic farming? What is conventional farming?

News Quiz Answer Key



1. What does CORA stand for and what is its mission?

A: Campaign for Organic and Regenerative Agriculture. It hopes to achieve a pesticide free Pajaro Valley.

2. Who did CORA appeal to to stop spraying near schools in the Pajaro Valley?

A: Driscoll's CEO Miles Reiter (via email)

3. What are some ways that pesticides are detrimental to a person's health, according to the article?

A: Asthma, cancer such as brain cancer and leukemia, ADHD or attention deficit hyperactivity disorders, learning disabilities, birth defects

4. What do agriculture industry advocates say in response to complaints about pesticide spraying?

A: That pesticides are heavily regulated and have strict limits on when they can be sprayed near schools. Farms must give advance notice - posted and inform a single administrator at each school (usually principal) directly.

5. According to the regulations passed in 2018 by the state, within what distance do farmers need to inform schools of their pesticide usage?

A: A quarter mile

6: Why do the activists want pesticide spraying near schools stopped?

A: They want the Pajaro Valley to be a beacon for organic agriculture that provides good jobs and protects the health of the students, community members and the environment.

7. Name two government agencies or organizations involved with pesticide regulation and oversight.

A: California Department of Pesticide Regulation, Santa Cruz County Agricultural Commissioner (Juan Hidalgo), California for Pesticide Reform, EPA, U.S. Department of Agriculture

News Quiz Answer Key



8. What does first-grade teacher Sarah Legions (mentioned first thing in the article) say her teenagers had to do when they were young that her baby daughter might not have to in the future?

A: Stay inside when pesticides were being sprayed at nearby farms

9. What questions or concerns do you have after reading this article?

A: Personal Response

10. BONUS: Not addressed in the article, but can be found elsewhere online:

What is organic farming? What is conventional farming?

A: Organic farming employs manure and compost to fertilize the soil, while conventional farming uses chemical fertilizers to promote plant growth.