

Science Time

Program Content for January 27, 2016

Read the article “**Best fix for lead water pipes? Get rid of them.**” on page A5 of the, January 24, 2016 edition of The Seattle Times.

Pre-reading and Vocabulary: Define each term and then use it in a sentence to demonstrate your understanding.

1. utility
2. corrode
3. leaching
4. algae

Comprehension Questions

1. Why were lead pipes used in the past to carry water into millions of homes across the U.S.?
2. Why are chemicals added to drinking water that flow through lead pipes?
3. Why do utility operators say that what happened in Flint, Michigan is unlikely to happen in other cities?
4. What was one mistake made by regulators at the state level of government in Michigan?
5. What was the result that occurred due to the state regulators mistake in question 5 above?
6. Where can lead pipes be found today?
7. What chemical is often added to water to prevent leaching and what is one downside of this additive?
8. How often are drinking-water utilities required to test for lead?
9. What level of lead in drinking water is considered to be safe?
10. What is the only guaranteed way to ensure that water is lead-free and what are the obstacles to this solution?

Prompts and Extensions

1. Watch these news clips ([clip 1](#), [clip 2](#)) for a brief synopsis of the Flint water crisis.
2. Listen to this Michigan radio series [documentary](#) that provides a detailed timeline of how the Flint water crisis developed.
3. View this [interactive timeline](#) of how the Flint water crisis developed.
4. Hold a class discussion about the Flint water crisis after thoroughly researching the topic. Questions to discuss may include.
 - a) Who is responsible for the water crisis?
 - b) What has learning about the water crisis in Flint made you think about the water supply in your home?
 - c) Why do you think it took so long for government officials to respond and take action on the water crisis despite ongoing complaints from Flint residents?
 - d) What are the short and long-term solutions to the water crisis?

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