

NEWS BREAK

Sunday's News Break selects an article from Sunday, April 23, 2017 of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

***Please remember to always preview the content of the article before sharing with your students.**

Article: A new worry for smokers: 'third-hand smoke'

Section: NW ARTS & LIFE, H6

Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions in the chart below.

A. detect	1. a colorless, oily, water-soluble, highly toxic, liquid alkaloid, C ₁₀ H ₁₄ N ₂ , found in tobacco and valued as an insecticide
B. exposure	2. a measure taken in advance to avert possible evil or to secure good results
C. nicotine	3. the agency, function, or power of a person authorized to act as the deputy or substitute for another
D. precaution	4. to discover the existence of: <i>to detect the odor of gas.</i>
E. proxy	5. something that remains after a part is removed, disposed of, or used; remainder; rest; remnant
F. residue	6. the act of exposing, laying open, or uncovering

Comprehension

1. Nicotine and chemical residue left behind from cigarette and cigar smoke can cling to what?
2. New findings have identified potential dangers of another byproduct of cigarettes that may slip past Miller's precautions and affect his children. What is it called?
3. A recent study in the journal Tobacco Control found high levels of nicotine on the hands of children of smokers, raising concerns about third-hand smoke, a name given to the nicotine and chemical residue left behind from cigarette and cigar smoke that can cling to skin, hair, clothes, rugs and walls. What happens to this thin film?

4. The researchers examined 25 children who arrived at emergency rooms with breathing problems associated with secondhand smoke exposure. What did they find?
5. They also found that all but one of the children had detectable levels in their saliva of cotinine, a biomarker for exposure to nicotine. All the children in the study had parents who smoked but did not smoke themselves.

The high nicotine readings on the children's hands, and the "light smoking" habits of most of their parents, signaled what to lead author E. Melinda Mahabee-Gittens?

6. Researchers at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that since 1964 at least _____ million nonsmokers have died of diseases linked to their exposure to cigarette smoke.
7. Research on third-hand smoke gained wide recognition only a decade ago, but several studies suggest that the mix of toxins can lead to adverse health outcomes. What have recent animal testing shown?
8. Removing third-hand smoke from a child's environment is not easy. Why?

Discussion Questions, Extension Essay Questions or Journal Prompts:

Michael Miller does what many smokers do to protect his sons and daughter from cigarette smoke. He takes it outside.

After his 7 a.m. coffee, he walks out of his home in Cincinnati to smoke his first cigarette of the day. Then, as a branch manager of a road safety construction company, he smokes dozens more on street curbs.

The tobacco never appears when Miller is coaching on the baseball or football field, or when he's in the car with his children. But when he's alone on the road, he sometimes rolls the windows down and lights up.

"I know (cigarettes are) bad," Miller said. "I know I need to quit."

- Why are so many people still smoking when they know the harmful effects of what's inside them and what they do to the human body?
- Do you know anyone who has smoked in the past? How did they stop?
- Do you think a lot of young people smoke? Why or why not?

Researchers noted that their conclusions are based on a small sample and will need to be studied in larger populations to verify the findings.

- Why are more studies needed with larger groups of people to verify their findings?

- Do you think their findings with a small group can still make an impact on how people view third-hand smoke?

Children face a higher risk of developing health complications from third-hand smoke than adults. Infants tend to spend more time indoors and can be surrounded by contaminated objects like rugs and blankets, according to a 2004 study by Georg Matt, a professor of psychology at San Diego State University. Infants' tendency to place their hands in their mouths increases the likelihood of the young ingesting the toxic residue.

Third-hand smoke can linger in an area long after a cigarette or cigar is put out — for up to five years, Matt said.

“Tobacco smoke doesn’t go up in the air and it disappears and it’s gone,” Matt said. “That’s the illusion.”

- Have you ever thought about this before—that the smoke creates a film in the home or car and stays there?
- How will this impact smokers that have families?

2.5 million non-smokers have died of diseases linked to their exposure to cigarette smoke.

- Did this statistic surprise you? Why or why not?

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