

## NEWS BREAK

Sunday's News Break selects an article from **Sunday, May 21, 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: Trump's plan slashes EPA science programs**

**Section: MAIN, A14**

**Pre-Reading Discussion:**



- **What do you think this is a picture of?**
- **Where do you think the shopping cart is?**
- **How can we take better care of our environment?**
- **Do you care about nature and our environment? Why or why not?**
- **Why do you think President Trump wants to cut funding to protect our environment?**

**Comprehension Questions:**

1. President Donald Trump's fiscal 2018 budget proposal would cut the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Science and Technology nearly in half, while paring by \_\_\_\_\_ percent funding for EPA employees who oversee and put in place environmental regulations, according to a White House document that was shared with The New York Times.
2. What is known as Superfund? How much does Trump want to cut in that program?

3. Those cuts are part of an overall EPA budget reduction of about 30 percent, as outlined in March, when the White House unveiled the budget requests for the fiscal year that begins in October. The agency's budget would drop to \$5.7 billion — its lowest in \_\_\_\_\_ years, adjusted for inflation — from its current \$8.2 billion.
4. The proposed cuts to the agency charged with protecting the nation's environment and public health appear aimed at slowing or stopping some of its ability to regulate several forms of pollution, including the carbon-dioxide emissions that cause global warming. The proposed reductions would carry out Trump's campaign pledges to do what?
5. In particular, the budget appears to reflect Trump's efforts to repeal what?
6. \_\_\_\_\_ on Capitol Hill are unlikely to approve reductions at the levels envisioned by the White House.
7. The draft reflects what critics have called the diminished priority that Trump places on \_\_\_\_\_. This month, that criticism increased as the EPA declined to renew the terms of several academic scientists who sit on a key agency review panel, the Board of Scientific Counselors, and signaled that the agency might be interested in replacing them with representatives from regulated industries.

#### **Discussion Questions, Extension Essay Questions or Journal Prompts:**

***Trump has made clear that he wants to increase military spending by 10 percent, and spend more on the border with Mexico, including building a wall. He would also not touch the largest drivers of the budget deficit, Medicare and Social Security. To do that, deliver what he has called the largest tax cut in the nation's history and make good on his campaign pledge to balance the budget, virtually every other aspect of government would have to be significantly cut. Those cuts would hit the EPA especially hard.***

- Why do you think President Trump is significantly cutting the EPA budgets?
- Is this in the best interest of our country? Why or why not?
- What could happen in the next 4 years without these environmental protections?
- How important is it to protect our environment?

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