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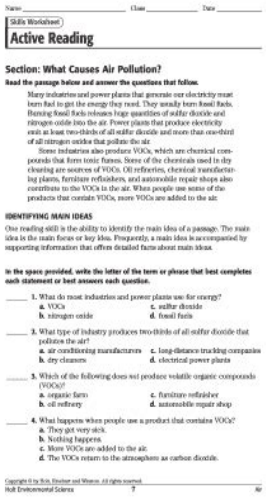

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Skills Worksheet

Active Reading

Section: What Causes Air Pollution?

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

Many industries and power plants that generate our electricity must burn fuel to get the energy they need. They usually burn fossil fuels. Burning fossil fuels releases huge quantities of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide into the air. Power plants that produce electricity emit at least two-thirds of all sulfur dioxide and more than one-third of all nitrogen oxides that pollute the air.

Some industries also produce VOCs, which are chemical compounds that form toxic fumes. Some of the chemicals used in dry cleaning are sources of VOCs. Oil refineries, chemical manufacturing plants, furniture refinishers, and automobile repair shops also contribute to the VOCs in the air. When people use some of the products that contain VOCs, more VOCs are added to the air.

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.

In the space provided, write the letter of the term or phrase that best completes each statement or best answers each question.

_____ 1. What do most industries and power plants use for energy?
a. VOCs
b. nitrogen oxide
c. sulfur dioxide
d. fossil fuels

_____ 2. What type of industry produces two-thirds of all sulfur dioxide that pollutes the air?
a. air conditioning manufacturers
b. dry cleaners
c. long-distance trucking companies
d. electrical power plants

_____ 3. Which of the following does not produce volatile organic compounds (VOCs)?
a. organic farm
b. oil refinery
c. furniture refinisher
d. automobile repair shop

_____ 4. What happens when people use a product that contains VOCs?
a. They get very sick.
b. Nothing happens.
c. More VOCs are added to the air.
d. The VOCs return to the atmosphere as carbon dioxide.

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Holt Environmental Science 7 Air

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Active Skills Answer Key