

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Read the passage. Then answer the questions.**

## North Dakota News

- 1 North Dakota became the nation's fastest-growing state in 2012. Fargo, the state's biggest city, reached 105,549 people that year. "Above 100,000? Wow. That puts us into a different category of city," the mayor told the *Wall Street Journal*.
- 2 What has fueled North Dakota's recent growth? The answer is shale gas and shale oil in the western part of the state. Gas and oil fields there have drawn many Americans looking for jobs. An estimated 24,000 workers live for part of the year in the area's temporary camps.
- 3 There has been a lot of news about shale gas, shale oil, and fracking. Shale is a kind of rock that sits thousands of feet below ground. In North Dakota, valuable deposits of gas and oil lie between layers of shale.
- 4 Over the past forty years, companies have developed methods for extracting shale gas and oil deposits. Water is mixed with sand, chemicals, and other materials. Then this water is pumped deep underground through steel pipes. The pressure of the water fractures the shale. Gas and oil get forced to the surface. This process is called "fracking."
- 5 Gas and oil production has brought thousands of new jobs to North Dakota. The state's jobless rate has been the lowest in the country. The income of its residents has risen at the fastest rate.

continued 

- 6 What's good for North Dakota has benefits for the whole United States. Although Americans use a lot of gas and oil from other countries, shale gas now accounts for more and more of the gas used here. Gas and oil that come from the United States mean lower prices for Americans. It means Americans don't need so much foreign gas or oil.
- 7 Despite these benefits, there are some concerns about fracking. It requires a lot of water, and it uses chemicals. Sometimes those chemicals spill and end up in drinking water. Gas and oil may leak, too. What's more, it has been suggested that fracking could cause earthquakes.
- 8 In some parts of the United States, these concerns have slowed the amount of fracking. That has not happened in North Dakota, however, where shale gas and oil and the jobs they bring have benefited the economy.

1. This question has two parts. Answer Part A and Part B.

**Part A** What is the main idea of this passage?

- A** The population of North Dakota has grown as workers come to the state looking for jobs.
- B** Shale gas and shale oil production brings benefits as well as possible problems for North Dakota.
- C** Fracking may cause environmental damage from chemical leaks as well as gas or oil leaks.
- D** Shale gas and oil deposits have run out quickly in some parts of the country.

**Part B** Choose **two** sentences from the passage that support the main idea in Part A.

- A** "Shale is a kind of rock that sits thousands of feet below ground."
- B** "In North Dakota, valuable deposits of gas and oil lie between layers of shale."
- C** "Gas and oil production has brought thousands of new jobs to North Dakota."
- D** "Americans use a lot of gas and oil from other countries."
- E** "Sometimes those chemicals spill and end up in drinking water."

2. What is the meaning of temporary as it is used in paragraph 2?

- A** having many parts
- B** on the edge of town
- C** deep in the woods
- D** lasting a short time

3. What are **two** causes of North Dakota's recent growth?
- A North Dakota became the fastest growing state in the United States in 2012.
  - B Workers came to North Dakota looking for jobs in the shale gas and oil fields.
  - C Gas and oil are forced to the surface through a method known as fracking.
  - D Gas and oil from North Dakota mean lower prices for all Americans.
  - E Large deposits of shale gas and shale oil were discovered in North Dakota.
4. Which sentence **best** states the main idea of paragraph 6? Underline the sentence you choose.

What's good for North Dakota has benefits for the whole United States. Although Americans use a lot of gas and oil from other countries, shale gas now accounts for more and more of the gas used here. Gas and oil that come from the United States mean lower prices for Americans. It means Americans don't need so much foreign gas or oil.

5. The author says that many people in North Dakota welcome shale gas and oil. What evidence in the passage supports this point?
- A Companies have new methods for getting out shale gas and oil.
  - B Americans use a lot of gas and oil from other countries.
  - C The process of fracking can leak chemicals into drinking water.
  - D The shale gas and oil boom has brought thousands of jobs to North Dakota.

6. What is the meaning of the word fractures in paragraph 4?
- A floods
  - B cracks
  - C pumps
  - D finds
7. Choose **two** possible negative effects of fracking. Check the box next to each detail you choose.
- It forces gas and oil to the surface.
  - It may cause earthquakes.
  - It lowers fuel prices for Americans.
  - It breaks shale rock deep underground.
  - It can leak chemicals, gas, and oil into drinking water.
  - It leads to higher income for people in North Dakota.
8. The word production in paragraph 5 comes from a Latin root that means—
- A sell or trade.
  - B lead or bring forward.
  - C grown in a field.
  - D send out or upward.
9. Why did companies have to develop new methods to get shale gas and oil deposits?
- A Shale gas and oil help lower the country's jobless rate.
  - B Shale gas and oil bring more workers to North Dakota.
  - C Shale gas and oil lay between layers of rock thousands of feet below ground.
  - D Shale gas and oil are forced to the surface during fracking.

10. Read the Author's Points in the chart. Find the **best** piece of evidence from the passage to support each point. Write the letter of each piece of evidence into the correct box in the chart.

Author's Points	Supporting Evidence
North Dakota shale gas and oil have helped the state.	
North Dakota shale gas and oil help the whole United States.	

**Possible Evidence:**

- A Americans depend on gas and oil from foreign lands.
- B Fargo's population reached 105,549 in 2012.
- C North Dakota has the lowest jobless rate in the country.
- D People in North Dakota value shale gas and oil.
- E Americans now use less gas and oil from other countries.

