

## Skills Worksheet

**Active Reading****Section: Mining Regulations and Mine Reclamation**

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

Mines on land in the United States are regulated by federal and state laws. To ensure that contaminants from mines do not threaten water quality, mining companies must comply with regulations of the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. The release of hazardous substances into the air, soil, and water by mining is regulated by the Comprehensive Response Compensation and Liability Act. In addition, all mining operations must comply with the Endangered Species Act. This act ensures that mining activities will not affect threatened or endangered species and their habitats.

The process of returning land to its original or better condition after mining is completed is called reclamation. The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) created a program for the regulation of surface coal mining on public and private land. The act set standards that would minimize the surface effects of coal mining on the environment. SMCRA also established a fund that is administered by the federal government and is used to reclaim land and water resources that have been adversely affected by past coal-mining activities.

**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 the main idea.

In the space provided, write the letter of the phrase that best completes each statement.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Which act ensures that mining activities will not affect the habitats of some species?
- a. Comprehensive Response Compensation and Liability Act
  - b. Safe Drinking Water Act
  - c. Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act
  - d. Endangered Species Act
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. What is reclamation?
- a. returning land to its original or better condition after mining
  - b. returning land to a useful condition after mining
  - c. regulation of the effect of mining on water
  - d. regulation of the effect of mining on air and soil
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The Comprehensive Response Compensation and Liability Act regulates
- a. reclamation.
  - b. endangered species.
  - c. hazardous substances.
  - d. past coal-mining activities.

**Active Reading** *continued*

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**VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT**

In the space provided, write the letter of the description that best matches the term or phrase.

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|--|---|
| _____ 4. Clean Water Act                                       | a. minimizes the surface effects of mining on the environment             |
| _____ 5. Safe Drinking Water Act                               | b. ensures that contaminants from mining do not threaten water resources  |
| _____ 6. Comprehensive Response Compensation and Liability Act | c. ensures that mining will not affect threatened species                 |
| _____ 7. Endangered Species Act                                | d. ensures that contaminants from mining do not threaten drinking water   |
| _____ 8. Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act            | e. regulates release of hazardous substances into the air, soil, or water |

**RECOGNIZING CAUSE AND EFFECT**

One reading skill is the ability to recognize cause and effect.

Read each question and write your answer in the space provided.

9. Which of the acts mentioned in the passage regulate mining directly?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Which of the acts mentioned in the passage are *not* directly related to mining?

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11. What are the effects of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977?

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