

Teacher Guide and Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 1060

Featured Text Structure: Cause/Effect – the writer presents the reason an event happened and its results

Passage Summary: “Dead Zone” describes an area of the Gulf of Mexico that becomes empty of life in the summer. The dead zone is caused when oxygen in the water that supports marine life gets used up as a result of pollution.

1. What do sea creatures depend on in the water in order to live?
 - A fertilizer
 - B algae
 - C **oxygen**
 - D sharks

2. According to the passage, which of the following *caused* the pollution in the dead zone?
 - A a lack of oxygen in the water
 - B swimmers
 - C sharks near the shore
 - D **fertilizer from farms**

3. You can conclude that if the dead zone didn’t occur, then
 - A there would be more algae in the water
 - B **sharks might not have swum near beaches**
 - C fish would stay clear of the area
 - D fewer people would use the beaches

4. Read the following sentence from the passage: “Scientists think the sharks came into shallow waters near the edge of the dead zone in search of food.”

In this sentence, the word **shallow** means

 - A **not deep**
 - B thin
 - C hot
 - D windy

5. The primary purpose of this passage is to
 - A warn readers about shark attacks
 - B **describe what the dead zone is**
 - C encourage people to protect fish
 - D teach people not to pollute water

6. Review the map. Which state is directly north of the dead zone?

Suggested answer: Louisiana is directly north of the dead zone. [map]

7. How might the dead zone be prevented from forming?

Suggested answer: The dead zone could be prevented if people stopped polluting. They would need to stop farm fertilizers from washing into the Mississippi River and then flowing into the Gulf of Mexico. [paragraph 2]

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

_____ the algae use up the oxygen in the water, sea creatures die.

- A Instead
- B After**
- C Before
- D Yet

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

A few years ago, some swimmers were attacked by sharks in shallow waters along the coast of Texas.

Who? **some swimmers**

(were) What? **attacked by sharks**

Where? in shallow waters along the coast of Texas

When? **a few years ago**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** region: area.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.