

- 26 Pesticides are chemicals that kill. They can slow or stop the growth of pests. Pests can be insects, fish, rats, mice, fungi, weeds, and other harmful animals or plants. Pests are bad because they spoil food. They ruin clothes, household goods, and buildings. They spread disease. They can injure and kill people. Pests can also harm helpful animals and plants. 60 13
- 88 Helpful animals and plants are those that people like and make use of. Or they are ones that are vital to a healthy world. These might be living things that give us food, such as crops and cattle. They also could be house plants, or cats and dogs kept as pets. In this group are the animals and plants found in nature that people like. And some forms of life are needed to keep a smooth and even balance. So, to protect plants and animals from harm, we use pesticides. 150 73
- 118 Pesticides are helpful. But they can be harmful, too. Pesticides can be misused. They can be used without following the right directions. When this happens, they do a great deal of harm to the animals and plants that we want to keep. Pesticides can poison. The deadly effects of these poisons can last a long time. The remains of some pesticides last for many years. They harm and kill long after they were first used. ● 103
- 146 The message is clear. Pesticides are useful. They take care of us and our useful plants and animals. But if not used in the right way, pesticides can cause a lot of harm. You can never be too careful when using pesticides. Guard yourself and others from pesticides. It is not safe for children to use them. In some cases, it is against the law. Pest control is a job for grown-ups. Teach your child well. Children should be able to know a pesticide by the label on the package. They should be taught not to use empty pesticide jars or cans. Spilled pesticide on the outside of the jar can be unsafe. It can poison someone. Keep poisons out of reach of small children. ● 132
- Sometimes people are poisoned by a pesticide. If this happens, directions on the label will tell you what to do. Follow them carefully. ● 162
- Ways to control pests without using pesticides need to be found and tested. Perhaps in the future we will learn to control pests in a better way.

Recalling Facts

1. Pesticides are
 - a. chemicals.
 - b. minerals.
 - c. vitamins.
2. Pests spoil
 - a. food.
 - b. paint.
 - c. oil.
3. Which of the following are pests?
 - a. cattle
 - b. dogs
 - c. fungi
4. Pesticides should never be used by
 - a. adults.
 - b. children.
 - c. people.
5. If someone is poisoned by a pesticide, you should follow the directions on the
 - a. handle.
 - b. label.
 - c. lid.

Understanding the Passage

6. What is the main idea of this article?
 - a. Harmful pests do much damage to clothing.
 - b. Pesticides can be helpful as well as harmful.
 - c. Useful animals often carry many diseases.
7. Some people like to decorate their houses with
 - a. pests.
 - b. plants.
 - c. poison.
8. This article hints that pesticides are
 - a. easy to use.
 - b. expensive to buy.
 - c. harmful to children.
9. Often pesticides are dangerous because they
 - a. are not used properly.
 - b. are stored in the garage.
 - c. explode easily.
10. New ways to control pests
 - a. need to be tested.
 - b. are easily found.
 - c. are not needed.