



The Michigan Gazette

CLEAN WATER CRISIS CONTINUES

\$2.20

25th April 2017

Outrage and protests continue as the city of Flint, Michigan enters its third year without safe drinking water.

In an effort to save money after Flint's governor appointed emergency managers to control Flint's finances in 2011, it was decided that Flint's source of drinking water would be switched from Lake Huron, one of the five Great Lakes of North America, to the less costly Flint River.

With almost immediate effect, residents of Flint began to complain that their drinking water had changed in both taste and appearance: it had turned cloudy and was said to emit a foul odour.



"It is simply unfit to drink," commented a resident who works at the local library. "The city claims that the water is safe yet it is discoloured. We will begin to provide bottled water for residents who use our services," they continued.

Initial tests performed revealed that Flint's new water source contained coliform bacteria and residents were advised to boil their tap water before drinking it.

Throughout 2014, tests on Flint's drinking water continued and, in March 2015, residents of Flint voted to switch back to their previous water source, Lake Huron. However, despite this, no switch has yet been made.

Since this vote, tests conducted in August 2015 concluded that, in addition to the coliform bacteria present in the water, there were also high levels of chloride and lead – causing the water to become orange and dangerous for consumption. The city of Flint issued a notice informing its residents that their drinking water now contained unlawful levels of chemicals which have been known to cause illness and diseases. All residents were advised to drink bottled water until the problem could be fixed.

Studies on children living in Flint showed that the amount of lead in their blood had almost doubled since Flint switched to its new water source. Understandably, residents query how this will impact the health of their children both now and in the future.

Upon further investigation, tests showed that the water leaving Flint's treatment plant was free from lead but, by the time it reached the taps of Flint's residents, it had contracted high levels of the toxic metal. Scientists believe that this is because water from the Flint River is more corrosive to the city's lead piping than the water from Lake Huron had been.



With a new network of pipelines simply a pipe dream, residents wonder when construction beneath the city will be complete and how much longer they will have to wait until their tap water is, once again, safe.

Q1: Find and copy **two** words from the first paragraph of the article which show that residents are unhappy.

- _____
- _____



Q2: What does the word **emergency** imply about the recruitment of the managers?



Q3: What was Flint's original source of drinking water?



Q4: Explain why the local library may have made the decision to provide bottled water for its users well before the city advised them to.



Q5: Which word from the third paragraph means the same as **give off**?

Tick one.

immediate

cloudy

emit

foul



Q6: Why do you think that residents were initially advised to boil their tap water?





Q7: Why was the situation just prior to August 2015 dangerous for residents?

Q8: What did studies on the children of Flint find?





Q9: Why might workers at the Flint water treatment plant not have known that the water was unsafe for residents?

Q10: Compare and contrast the situation in Flint before and after its water source was changed.



Q11: With a new network of pipelines simply a pipe dream...

Explain why the author has written this phrase in this way.





Q12: Summarise the key points of this news article in 30 words or fewer.



A Journey to America: Advancing Reading Skills

Clean Water Crisis Continues – Answer Sheet

Q1: Find and copy two words from the first paragraph of the article which show that residents are unhappy.

Accept the answers 'outrage' and 'protests' only.

Q2: What does the word emergency imply about the recruitment of the managers?

Accept any answer which infers that the recruitment was done quickly, as a matter of urgency or as a result of some sort of panic or unrest, such as: The word 'emergency' implies that the managers were recruited quickly to solve a problem.

Q3: What was Flint's original source of drinking water?

Accept the answer 'Lake Huron' only.

Q4: Explain why the local library may have made the decision to provide bottled water for its users well before the city advised them to.

Accept any answer which infers that they believed that there was a problem with the water and did not want their users to come to harm, such as: I think that they did this because the staff at the library knew that there was something wrong with the water and they wanted to protect their users.

Q5: Which word from the third paragraph means the same as **give off**?

Tick one.

immediate

cloudy

emit

foul

Q6: Why do you think that residents were initially advised to boil their tap water?

Accept answers which refer to trying to make the water safer, such as: I think that residents were advised to boil their tap water because the city knew that it contained bacteria and boiling it might kill the bacteria and make the water safer.

Q7: Why was the situation just prior to August 2015 dangerous for residents?

Accept any answer which refers to residents still unknowingly drinking water which contained chloride and lead, such as: The situation prior to August 2015 was dangerous because residents had not been told to drink bottled water yet but their water contained harmful chemicals.

Q8: What did studies on the children of Flint find?

Accept answers referring to the statistic that the amount of lead in the children's blood had almost doubled, such as: Studies on the children of Flint found that the amount of lead present in the children's blood since Flint switched to its new water source.

Q9: Why might workers at the Flint water treatment plant not have known that the water was unsafe for residents?

Accept any answer which refers to tests showing the water as being safe when it left the treatment plant, such as: Workers might not have known that the water was unsafe for residents because tests showed that it was safe and free from lead when it left the plant.

Q10: Compare and contrast the situation in Flint before and after its water source was changed.

Accept any reasonable comparison or commentary about how the situation in Flint has changed, such as: Before the change, the water was safe to drink. After the change, the water was dangerous and residents had been exposed to a lot of lead.

Q11: With a new network of pipelines simply a pipe dream...

Explain why the author has written this phrase in this way.

Accept answers which discuss the author's intentional wordplay relating to the content of the news article, such as: The author uses 'pipe dream' because the article has been about water pipes and it has been written this way as an effective play on words.

Q12: Summarise the key points of this news article in 30 words or fewer.

Accept any reasonable summary of the key points of the article within the specified word limit, such as: The city of Flint has had unclean and dangerous water for years due to corroding pipes as a result of a change to the water source.