

Name _____

Date _____

**Fooling with Nature: Are Manmade Chemicals in the Environment Hazardous to Humans?
Follow-Up Questions**

1. After reading the article, one usually becomes concerned as to where one might be exposed to PCBs. What were PCBs specifically used for before they were banned in 1979?

2. What is the biggest concern researchers have regarding human exposure to PCBs still in the environment?

3. a. What is a paradigm? _____
b. What is the paradigm shift that the article makes reference to?

4. A question is posed: "Has the fetus become the unfortunate mining canary for human exposure to toxicants in the environment?" What does this quote mean?

5. Why are there disagreements about the link between environmental pollution and diseases in humans? Support your response with details from the article and/or by using your own rationale.

6. Name 3 known chemicals that affect the Great Lakes region stated in the article?

7. Why would a subsistence fisherman be at a greater risk for health problems?

8. a. Who are scientists most concerned about when it comes to toxic chemicals, even at very low-levels?

b. What statistical data support these concerns?

9. What does bioaccumulate mean?

You don't have to do the following, but just a word of advice for the future ...

Sometimes when you are reading an assigned journal/scholarly article, you will come across references to other studies related to the theme of the article. When that happens, you may have to do additional research to gain a better understanding of other case studies and the reasons why they earned a mention in the article you are reading. For example:

1. Why is there so much emphasis on the Great Lakes? Is there a detailed history of pollution in the Great Lakes region and the effects it has had on local wildlife?

2. A quote from the article:

“Critics of the endocrine disruption hypothesis say it is one thing to study deformities of alligator penises and bird bills in polluted areas, but they say blaming human diseases and deficiencies on environmental chemicals is a stretch.” Is there a history of such deformities? Is the quote possibly just poking fun at some of the types of studies being conducted? Is this just a random, off-the-cuff statement?