

Directions: Review the content below and answer the questions that follow

Write Bright Gel Pens

Write Bright Gel Pens

Only \$2.99 each
Add pizzazz to letters and cards. Perfect for journal writing. Great for posters, scrapbooks, etc.
Order yours today!

The right way to write!

“Since I got this pen, I haven’t met a single person who didn’t want one for themselves—from male friends to my 20-year-old daughter!”
—Kay Smith, Houston, Texas

“I used to dread classroom writing assignments, but now I love my gel pen and look forward to using it. I can choose the color I want depending on what mood I’m in that day.”
—Sandra Lopez, Tucson, Arizona

Write Bright 6-inch metallic gel pens come in a variety of colors (pictured below): glorious green, perfectly pink, sassy silver, beautiful blue, paradise purple, and gallant gold. Write Bright’s special design allows for smooth, streak-free writing. Each pen uses water-based color that is acid free so it won’t fade or bleed. The flower-print pen is designed with comfort and quality in mind. Grooved finger grips provide added writing ease. Order one of our Firm Grip Pads, and you will never have writer’s cramp again! Each grip pad is made from space-age material that easily slides onto your pen and molds to your unique grip. Truly, this is a pen designed with you in mind!



Order the Value Pack and save!
Write Bright Gel Pen \$2.99
6-Pen Value Pack \$14.99
Firm Grip Pad \$5.99
Phone: 1-800-555-5555
Email: GelPenz1@WriteBright.comn2
or visit our website at www.WriteBright.com
All major credit cards accepted. Usually ships in 1–2 business days. Shipping expense based on U.S. zip code. Canadian shipping quotes available on request. Free shipping on orders of \$50 or more.

Write Bright, Inc. • P.O. Box 555 • Gelsforu, CT 90909

- Which statement about the “Write Bright Gel Pen” is MOST credible?
 - The gel pen grips will help ease writer’s cramp.
 - Each pen is designed for the individual buying it.
 - Using these pens will improve everyone’s mood.
 - Using the gel pens will improve homework quality.
- Which of these statements is an opinion?
 - Add pizzazz to letters and cards.
 - All major credit cards are accepted.
 - Grooved finger grips provide added writing ease.
 - Each pen uses water-based color that is acid-free.

Go on to the next page »

Directions: Review the content below and answer the questions that follow

The Wright Brothers Make History/Flight Claim Considered a Hoax

The Wright Brothers Make History

One day, when Orville and Wilbur Wright were boys, their father returned from a trip with a gift that would help change their lives—and history—forever. The toy was a helicopter, made of cork, bamboo, and paper. It was powered by a rubber band.

At that time, in the year 1878, flight was still a dream. Helicopters and airplanes that could lift a man into the air had not yet been invented. But the toy helicopter thrilled Orville, age 7, and Wilbur, age 11. They began to build and fly copies of it. And although their attempts to build much larger models failed, their interest in flight had begun.

Years later, in 1899, Orville and Wilbur Wright began the work that would lead to the first airplane. Now adults, the brothers owned a bicycle shop in their hometown of Dayton, Ohio. In their spare time, they researched the subject of flight and began testing different types of wings that could lift a craft into the air.

The Wright brothers divided flight into three problems: The aircraft needed wings that could lift it into the air. It needed an engine that could propel it. And finally, it needed a means of controlling it in flight.

The problem of control was a tough one. The solution came from pigeons. While watching pigeons flying, Wilbur and Orville Wright noticed that the birds kept adjusting the positions of their wings. . . . If only the brothers could make a flexible¹ wing that could operate like this, they just might solve the problem.

Wilbur and Orville immediately began designing a glider to test the idea. But to fly their glider, the brothers needed to find an open place with strong, steady winds. They wrote to the U.S. Weather Bureau and were sent a list of possible sites. One of these was Kitty Hawk, North Carolina—a virtually uninhabited² beach.

The Wrights traveled first to Kitty Hawk in the fall of 1900, where they tested their glider. . . . They flew the glider like a kite, controlling it using long cords attached to the wings. They carefully measured the performance of the glider and used this information to design another one.

In the summer of 1901, Wilbur and Orville returned to Kitty Hawk. There they assembled and tested a new glider. The first day they flew the glider, Wilbur, the pilot, made seventeen glides.

Still, the Wrights' gliders failed to fly as well as the brothers had calculated they would. In the winter of 1901, the Wrights used a wind tunnel to study the problem. The Wrights put models of airplane wings in the tunnel. By carefully measuring the performance of these models, they were able to build better wings for their glider. The 1902 Wright glider performed better than earlier ones, producing glides of over 500 feet. Now the brothers were ready for the next step.

Back in Dayton, the Wrights worked to build propellers and a lightweight engine that could propel their aircraft skyward. In the fall of 1903, they returned to Kitty Hawk, where they practiced flying on the latest model of their glider as they assembled their new engine-powered craft.

Progress was slow, and cold weather came early, but soon the Wrights were ready. Several local men helped them roll the 700 pound Wright Flyer to its starting place. They started the engine and Wilbur and Orville tossed a coin to choose the pilot. Wilbur won. He lay down on the lower wing and took the controls. Orville held one of the wing tips to help balance the airplane as it roared down the starting track.

After about thirty-five feet the Flyer lifted off the ground. But after just 3 1/2 seconds, it smashed back to earth. It took two days to repair the damages. But on December 17, 1903, the Wrights were ready to try again.

Now it was Orville's turn to be the pilot. He set up a camera, focusing it at the point where the Flyer would lift off. Then he took the controls. With Wilbur running alongside it, the Flyer picked up speed, then rose into the air.

At that moment, one of the local men snapped the camera shutter, taking the photograph that would preserve the moment forever. The first flight lasted only twelve seconds, and covered only 120 feet. But the brothers flew the plane three more times that day. The last flight, with Wilbur piloting, covered 852 feet in 59 seconds, proving conclusively that sustained, controlled flight was possible. The Wright brothers had changed the world. The Age of Flight had begun.

¹ **flexible:** can bend, usually without breaking

² **virtually uninhabited:** for the most part, not lived in

Flight Claim Considered a Hoax

Kitty Hawk, December 27, 1903—Wilbur and Orville Wright, two brothers, claimed they have made history by flying an airplane along the beaches of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. There have been numerous people who have claimed to pull off such a feat. So, let's examine the brothers' story to see if it's any different.

Go on to the next page »

The brothers are from Ohio. Their father was a church minister. The brothers began their own printing business when they were 18 and 22 years of age, with Wilbur being the oldest. It is reported that they built their own printing press and published odd jobs around town. Later, the brothers opened a bicycle repair shop. Some news sources report that they began building gliders in 1900 and worked on their current flying machine for nearly four years.

It is hard to believe that building a printing press and fixing two-wheeled vehicles qualifies you to build a refined flying machine. Others across the country had an interest in building a flying machine. One of the best engineers in the country, Samuel P. Langley, failed at the exact task just days before the Wright brothers claimed success.

Langley spent \$70,000 constructing his flying machine called the Aerodrome. Clearly, it was a state-of-the-art piece of equipment. If any machine should be able to fly, this was the one. Langley hired pilot Charles Manly to attempt human flight with his flying machine. However, when Manly attempted to fly the Aerodrome on December 8, it never went airborne. Instead, it crashed into the Potomac River near Washington and sank to the bottom. If Langley's machine cannot fly, no machine can fly.

Simon Newcomb, professor of mathematics and astronomy at Johns Hopkins University, says that powered human flight is "utterly impossible." It would require the discovery of "some new unsuspected force in nature." George Melville, a chief engineer in the U.S. Navy, explained that attempting human flight was absurd. So, how would two unknown mechanics who work in a simple bicycle shop conquer this challenge?

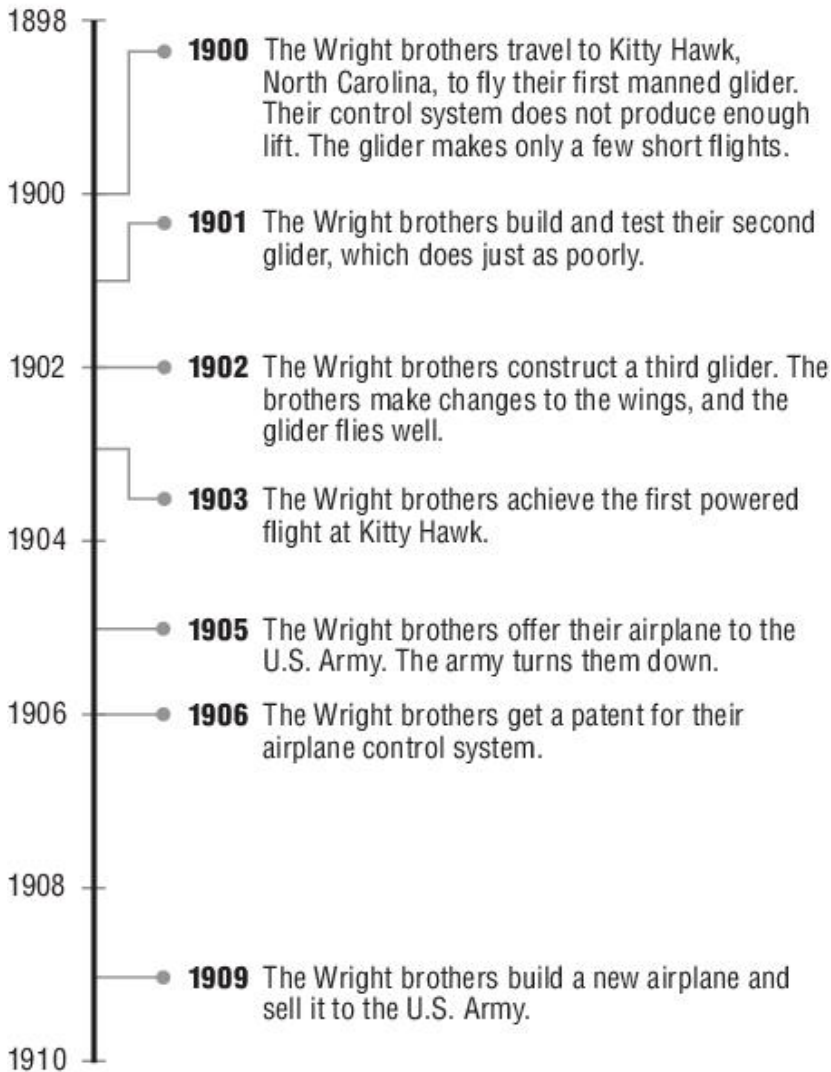
The Wright Brothers claim that their flying machine went airborne for almost a minute with Wilbur at the controls. The problem is that no one saw this "miraculous" flight except for a few lifeguards on the beach and some of the brothers' family members. None of these people were qualified to certify that the Wrights did indeed launch a flying machine into the air that day. As of yet, no one has produced photographic evidence of the flight.

Another issue with this so-called flight is the unreliable information surrounding it. Newspaper articles about the event each relate a different point of view. Even Orville Wright's own telegram to his father is different from what he is telling reporters today. Orville says the flight was 59 seconds, but in a message to his family, he reported it was 57 seconds. *The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot* reported that the flying machine went 3 miles. How could this machine go 3 miles in under a minute?

The Dayton Daily News reported that the brothers actually flew a hot-air balloon, not a motorized flying machine. The headline read, "Dayton Boys Emulate Great Santos-Dumont." As we know, Santos-Dumont is an aviator who flew a hot-air balloon around the Eiffel Tower in France. Hot-air balloon flight is old news—it's already been done—so why are the Wright brothers trying to take credit for it?

With so many differences in the different stories, the Wright brothers' stunt is hard to believe. Many experts claim that human flight with a motorized machine is just a little boy's dream, never to be achieved, and we are inclined to agree.

The Wright Brothers in Flight



3. In "The Wright Brothers Make History," how does the author support the claim that the toy helicopter changed history forever?
- A. The Wright brothers designed their first successful flying craft to look like the toy helicopter.
 - B. The toy helicopter inspired the Wright brothers to take an interest in building flying machines.
 - C. The toy helicopter helped the Wright brothers realize that special wings were needed to lift an aircraft.
 - D. The Wright brothers studied the structure of the toy helicopter to help them understand the laws of flight.

Directions: Review the content below and answer the questions that follow

danica4pres

www.danica4pres.com

My Experience

My Goals for the Year

Contact Me

Vote for Danica!

Welcome to my website. I'm Danica Jackson. I'm running for 6th grade class president at Kellerman School.

Why Vote for Me?

I don't have any catchy rhyming slogans or songs. I admit that Wayne Michaels's campaign slogan is catchy. Even I like to chant "Don't be a pain, vote for Wayne!" And Brenda Sorenson's posters are more beautiful than anything I could ever draw. But there's a big difference between a good campaign and a good president. When it comes to experience and skills, I believe I am simply the best choice for the students of Kellerman.

Qualifications

Student Government Experience	I was the 5 th grade class vice president. I have experience in leadership positions. ----- I have served in student government since third grade. That's longer than any other candidate for sixth grade class president!
Other Student Groups	I am a member of the Junior Honor Society and the marching band (clarinet). I am good at working together with groups of students. That's important! The class president doesn't work alone. He or she has to work with the whole student council, plus the principal and vice principals. And the PTA too! Some candidates have never done this kind of teamwork. Wouldn't you rather have a president who knows what she's doing?
Fundraising	I have been in Girl Scouts since age 6. I'm the top cookie seller for my region. I don't say this to brag—I'm good at getting people to believe in important causes. If we want to support the music program and put on the fall carnival, our school needs to have two big fundraisers this year. I know I can help us get the support we all want and need from the community. In fact, I think my fundraising ideas will help us have the most successful year ever!

One thing I know about a good leader is that she always listens to the people she has to lead. So I want you to know now that I will always listen to any ideas or worries you have about the school. In fact, I'll even listen now—during the campaign. I want to know what YOU care about most. I want to know what YOU think the school should do this year. E-mail me at danicalistens@danica4pres.com. Together, we can make this a year to remember!

Go on to the next page »

4. How does Danica appeal to the viewers' emotions in the last paragraph of her website?
- A. She provides her email address to show viewers she knows how to use technology.
 - B. She repeats the word "YOU" to let viewers know she values them and their opinions.
 - C. She uses the word "I" a lot to prove to viewers that she's the one who wrote the website.
 - D. She summarizes the things that would make her a good class president to reassure viewers.

Directions: Review the content below and answer the questions that follow

Playing Sports/Teamwork

Playing Sports

Playing sports is a great way to learn teamwork. As part of a sports team, every person has to learn to work together, and no one person is more important than any other. As the saying goes, "There's no 'I' in Team." Playing a sport has the added benefit of giving kids like us exercise, and it helps build our self-esteem. Kids who feel good about themselves will more likely speak up for themselves in any situation, not just on the playing field.

One of the best sports for learning teamwork is soccer. It's great because you don't have to be very tall, as you do in basketball. You also don't have to be very big, as you do in football. In soccer, if you can run and kick, you can play.

The great thing about being part of a team is that when the team wins, everyone feels good. Everyone has a part in the win. When a team loses, nobody loses alone. Being part of a team makes a loss easier to deal with because you have friends who feel the same way that you do.

Playing sports teaches kids to set goals, work hard, work with other people, and be good leaders. These are all the things that you need to be a good team member. So if you want to learn good teamwork, play some team sports.

Teamwork

Before you start to work or play on a team, you need to know what it means to be part of a team. On any team, people work together. That means that everyone should have a chance to speak, and everyone should listen to the speaker. Teams need to have leaders. Leaders organize the group and help make decisions when people disagree or when there are too many ideas being offered. Leaders also assign roles to each person in the group. It's important for every person to have something to do that contributes to the team.

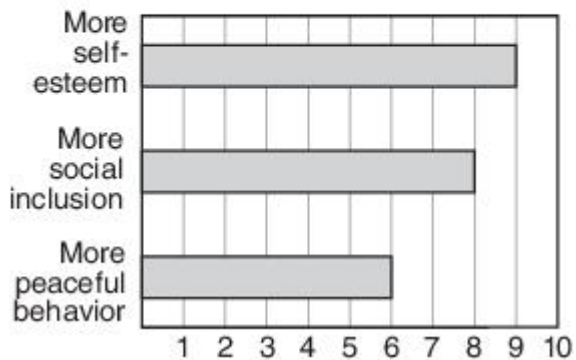
If your team is organizing a school event, such as a book fair, everyone needs to have a job. One person might be in charge of ordering the books. Another person might make posters and put them up. Someone else might find a place to have the fair. Another person might get tables for displaying the books. A very important team member is a record keeper. This person keeps track of what everyone's job is and what they have been doing. It's important for everyone to know what their job is right at the beginning. That will avoid confusion.

Working as a team can be difficult. Activities have been developed to help kids be comfortable when they work together. One of the ways is by participating in team-building games such as Pass on the Move. In this game, the first person performs a simple action, such as clapping his or her hands. The next person in line copies the action, then the next, until everyone has had a chance to do it. Another "leader" is then chosen to perform another action, which everyone copies in turn. The game teaches that everyone has a chance to participate and that others must wait their turn. It also gives everyone a chance to be the leader.

Working as a team is a great way to get big projects done, and it can be fun, too.

Go on to the next page »

The graph below shows what kind of self-helping behavior kids display when they have successful experiences.

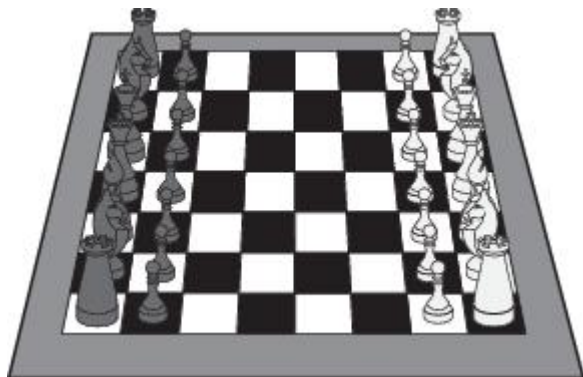


5. Which of these sentences does not support the author's argument that kids should be part of a team?
- A. The great thing about being part of a team is that when the team wins, everyone feels good.
 - B. When a team loses, nobody loses alone.
 - C. Leaders also assign roles to each person in the group.
 - D. Working as a team is a great way to get big projects done, and it can be fun, too.

Directions: Review the content below and answer the questions that follow

Let's Have a Chess Club

by Doris Williams



Good morning. I am happy to have the chance to talk to you during our class meeting today. First, I want to ask you two questions. If you could get better scores on math exams simply by learning to play a game, would you be interested? And if I told you that playing a particular game would give a boost to your reading skills, would you want to learn the game? Sure you would. The game I am talking about is chess.

Someone may have told you that chess is a game for “brainy” people. Wrong! I read that some kids learn to play when they are four years old. The game is not difficult to learn. There is a second grader in my neighborhood who plays chess with his big brother. If a second grader can learn to play, I know we sixth graders can learn to play. I want to tell you more about the game, but first I want to talk about starting a chess club here at school.

I said that you could get better scores in math by learning chess. When I was getting facts together to talk to you about starting a club, I did a lot of research on the library computer. I found many, many pages on the Internet telling how this game is so much more than just a way to pass the time. Chess requires problem solving. Educators and researchers have done studies with students just like you and me. These studies prove that chess teaches how to think ahead, how to plan, and how to be systematic in an approach to problem solving. If we know better how to use these skills, it figures we can use these same techniques to solve math problems. I read that one junior high school teacher in California said that he saw improvement in his math students' scores after they had been playing chess for only three weeks. Is there any one of us who couldn't improve his or her math skills?

Memorizing worked for us when we learned the multiplication tables, but chess is not about memorizing. Sometimes trying to memorize too many facts or formulas gets in the way of figuring out things for ourselves. Playing chess is a mental workout. It is thinking and analyzing. When we read, we think about and analyze the material and hope that we comprehend it. Playing chess also will help us learn to concentrate, something we must do when we read.

There is no cost for chess lessons. There is no special equipment to buy or uniform required. The only thing you have to bring to the club meetings is a determination to learn how to play. Learning how to shoot baskets is great exercise, but unless you are another David Robinson, it will not be that much help in your future life. Strategy and reasoning are tools we can use for a lifetime. Chess will help us develop these skills.

Chess is not the least bit dull or boring. Maybe you have heard of Garry Kasparov. In 2004, he was rated the highest-scoring chess player in the world. In 1999, he played a game of chess on the Internet. It was called the Kasparov vs. The World online chess match. Kasparov faced a team of players from seventy-five different countries. He made the first move on June 21, 1999. Then the opposition had twenty-four hours to make its move. Four chess experts suggested certain moves and posted them online to world team players. The world team then voted for the move they thought best. The move that received the most votes was the move the experts used against Kasparov. This game was over in October 1999. Garry Kasparov made move number 62 and won the game. It is said that over 3 million people logged on to watch this thrilling match. I would not call that a boring game.

Are you excited yet about learning to play chess? I hope so, because I am. Thank you for giving me this time to talk about organizing a club that I am sure you will enjoy and that will help all of us. Vote yes for chess!

Go on to the next page »

6. Which statement from the passage is an opinion?
- A. Chess is not the least bit dull or boring.
 - B. The world team then voted for the move they thought best.
 - C. I read that some kids learn to play when they are four years old.
 - D. Educators and researchers have done studies with students just like you and me.
7. How does the author BEST present the argument about chess?
- A. by using research to support her opinions
 - B. by talking about how much she loves chess
 - C. by explaining the difference between math and reading
 - D. by providing strategies and background information for chess

Directions: Review the content below and answer the questions that follow

Organic Farming: The Best Solution/The Only Way to Feed the World

Organic Farming: The Best Solution

One of the most important debates of our time concerns the question of how we grow and produce food to feed the world's population. Is conventional farming the best approach, or should we use organic methods to grow food? Some people assume that the only way to feed Earth's quickly growing population is with conventional farming. However, returning to a more natural method of growing food is safer and is becoming more popular.

On a conventional farm, farmers use large machines to do most of the planting and harvesting of crops. Very little is done by hand, so these types of farms can produce more crops in a shorter amount of time. To accomplish this, conventional farmers use chemicals, such as fertilizers, to promote plant growth. They also use other chemicals that are designed to kill weeds in the soil or to kill insects that harm plants. These chemicals are created in laboratories by scientists and are produced by large agricultural supply companies.

Conventional farmers use tractors or small planes to spray these chemicals on their fields. The farmers must wear protective clothing and masks so they don't breathe in or absorb these harmful chemicals. Birds and other wildlife are often scarce on these types of farms because they cannot withstand the effects of the chemicals. Traces of these chemicals can be found in many kinds of fruits, vegetables, and grains that are grown on conventional farms and sold in stores. Scientists are still studying the effects this has on humans and animals who consume them.

On the other hand, on an organic farm, food is grown without the use of man-made chemicals. Everything comes from nature, and many of the tasks involved in cultivating crops are done by hand. Organic farms do not use chemicals to improve plant growth, kill bugs, or control weeds. Instead, organic farmers rely on natural methods to achieve the same goals. For example, organic farmers may bring certain birds or insects into the environment to help destroy other harmful crop-eating insects, such as potato bugs or cabbageworms. Trees are often planted among the fields to provide homes for the birds that help control the bug population. Some organic farms also use natural substances, such as bug sprays made from plant sources, to help control insects and other pests.

All types of farming operations must help the soil stay rich and fertile to support the crops they grow. On conventional farms, farmers do this by adding chemical fertilizers to the soil each year. These chemicals can pollute the groundwater supply that is the source of drinking water for a community. But organic farmers enrich the soil with broken-down vegetable matter and animal waste. Plowing this matter and leftover crop plants into the soil is a natural way to keep the soil healthy. This supplies many valuable nutrients to growing plants.

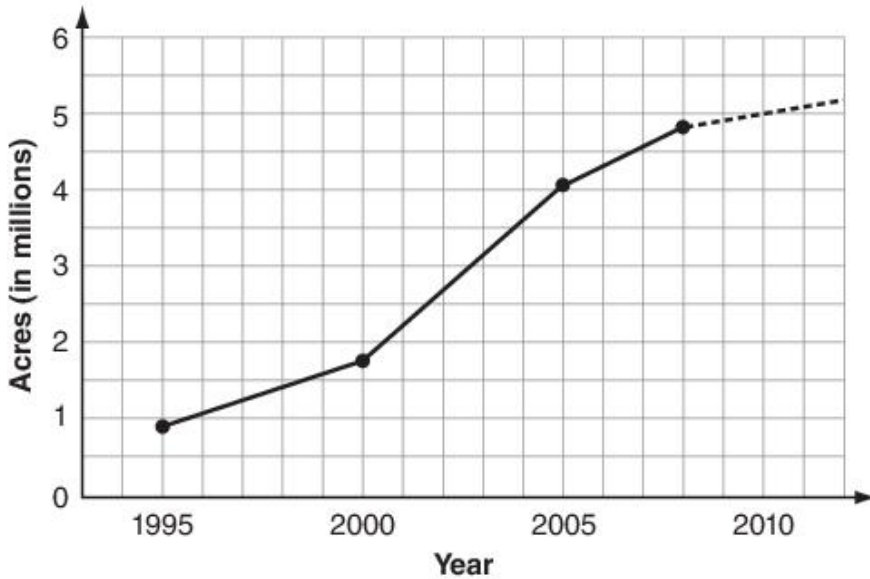
Many farmers raise livestock, such as chickens, pigs, or cows, in addition to or instead of growing crops. On conventional farms, these animals often live in huge, overcrowded buildings. The conditions they live in are not ideal, and the animals may be more likely to get sick. To help these animals grow faster and larger and to help prevent sickness, conventional farmers put drugs and medicines in the animals' food. This might seem like a good idea to help keep farm animals healthy, but those drugs and medicines can end up in the meat, milk, and eggs found in stores.

On organic farms, the livestock generally live in a healthy environment. They eat a balanced diet of organic foods for proper growth. The animals do not need drugs added to their food to keep them healthy or to prevent disease. They are often raised as "free range" animals, which means they are able to go outside and move around more freely than animals on a conventional farm. The animals raised on organic farms provide better quality products to be sold in stores.

It is clear to see why organic farming is the way people have grown crops and raised animals for thousands of years. Time has proven that it works and is safer for the environment. It is important that more farmers use this natural method of farming to help feed the world's population.

Go on to the next page »

Growth in U.S. Organic Farmland: 1995–2008*



*Based on the latest report by the USDA

The Only Way to Feed the World

Organic farming sounds so nice: food is grown without chemicals, drugs, or other unnatural things. We picture cows and chickens roaming grassy fields in the sunshine or strawberries untouched by chemicals. But is organic farming practical for feeding a world bursting with people? Or is conventional farming the best approach?

For one thing, organic farms raise less food per acre than conventional farms do. Some studies show that organic farms produce only half of what conventional farms do. This is because organic farmers rely heavily on tilling the soil or hand-picking weeds without the use of mechanical farming tools. But as the demand to feed the world's growing population increases, farms need to be more efficient. Conventional farms use modern machinery to cultivate crops and produce more crops in a shorter amount of time. If every farm in the world was organic, food supplies could decrease considerably.

It is often debated that the artificial insect and weed controls used in conventional farming are more harmful than the natural methods used in organic farming. When it comes to organic pest controls made from copper or sulfur, this is untrue. These organic controls can cause eye or skin irritation if used incorrectly. Copper has even proven to be toxic to fish and other marine animals when found in runoff. Although small traces of chemicals can be found in conventionally grown fruits, vegetables, and meat products, the products are always tested to ensure they meet U.S. safety standards. In addition, the laws that regulate the types of chemicals used in organic farming do not limit the amount that can be used. So instead of applying one dose of an effective chemical spray to kill an apple pest, for example, organic farmers could be spraying their orchards repeatedly with natural pest controls. More of it eventually winds up on the food and in the earth.

Laws applying to organic farming do not allow for the use of genetically altered plants. These are plants that scientists have changed so they grow faster or are more resistant to disease or certain types of pests. Eliminating these plants from farming removes all the benefits they can provide.

Genetically altered plants can increase the quantity or lengthen the shelf life of produce. Some can even be changed so that they contain more of the vitamins that keep people healthy. These types of plants also can reduce the need for chemicals during cultivation. For instance, scientists can make a potato that won't get a certain plant disease. Farmers would then use fewer chemicals to growing these potatoes, which, in turn, is safer for the environment.

Some studies claim that organic food is better for you than produce grown on conventional farms. While some studies have shown that organic food has more nutrients, other studies have shown the opposite. It has been discovered that some types of organic foods are more likely to contain certain harmful bacteria. This is probably because organic farms use natural fertilizers instead of clean chemical fertilizers to develop the soil.

Conventional agriculture feeds more people in a cost-effective way. A trip to a store can prove that organic food is expensive. This is partly because it takes more people to plant, weed, till, and do other work on organic farms. The labor needed to raise the crops and animals drives up the cost of organic products. The use of machinery and the safe use of chemicals on conventional farms cost less than natural methods.

Go on to the next page »

Evaluating Support Quiz » Form A (Master Copy)

The choice is clear. Organic food is a luxury most people cannot afford, and it is not completely safe. It also does not allow for the use of science to improve the quantity of crops and the quality of people's lives. Conventional farming is the best way to feed the world's population, now and in the future.

8. Based on the text, explain why organic farming has become popular in recent years. Support your answer with important details from the selection.

Stop! You have finished this exam.