

# Gasping for Air

A recent study says that kids living in areas with **air pollution**<sup>1</sup> are more likely to develop **asthma** than kids who live in other areas. Asthma is an illness that makes breathing difficult. About 9 million children in the United States suffer from asthma.

More than 3,500 kids, ages 9 to 16, who lived in California took part in the study. About half of those kids lived in areas that had lots of air pollution. The other half lived in areas that had clean air. All the children played outdoor sports.

After studying the kids for five years, doctors found that about 260 of them developed asthma. Most of those kids lived in towns that had lots of air pollution. Doctors say that breathing too much polluted air caused the asthma cases.

A California health official said the study shows the need to do more to prevent air pollution. Doctors say that children should still play outside but only on days when air pollution isn't bad.

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<sup>1</sup> **air pollution:** air made impure or unhealthy by harmful substances

Question Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**“Gasping for Air” Questions**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The main idea of this passage is
- a. people need to help stop air pollution.
  - b. air pollution happens in both towns and cities.
  - c. asthma can be caused by air pollution.
  - d. children with asthma should not play outside.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Which of the following is *not* a detail that supports the main idea?
- a. Most kids with asthma live in places with polluted air.
  - b. Most kids with asthma live in cities.
  - c. Asthma makes breathing difficult.
  - d. Playing outdoors in polluted areas can cause asthma.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. More than \_\_\_\_\_ kids from California took part in a study about asthma.
- a. 16
  - b. 260
  - c. 3,500
  - d. 9,000,000
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The main idea is supported by the following detail:
- a. most of the kids with asthma lived in areas with air pollution.
  - b. playing sports causes asthma.
  - c. the study lasted five years.
  - d. most of the kids with asthma lived in areas with clean air.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Describe asthma.

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Question Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**“Gasping for Air” Answer Sheet**

- MI 1. The main idea of this passage is  
 a . people need to help stop air pollution.  
 b. air pollution happens in both towns and cities.  
**c. asthma can be caused by air pollution.**  
 d. children with asthma should not play outside.
- MI 2. Which of the following is *not* a detail that supports the main idea?  
 a. Most kids with asthma live in places with polluted air.  
**b. Most kids with asthma live in cities.**  
 c. Asthma makes breathing difficult.  
 d. Playing outdoors in polluted areas can cause asthma.
- EI 3. More than \_\_\_\_\_ kids from California took part in a study about asthma.  
 a. 16  
 b. 260  
**c. 3,500**  
 d. 9,000,000
- MI 4. The following detail supports the main idea:  
**a. most of the kids with asthma lived in areas with air pollution.**  
 b. playing sports causes asthma.  
 c. the study lasted five years.  
 d. most of the kids with asthma lived in areas with clean air.
- ViC 5. Describe asthma.

Answers will vary. Asthma is a condition that makes breathing difficult.

*Suggested Additional Vocabulary: prevent*