Read the short story and answer each question.



## How Gasoline Cars Work

Gasoline cars have been around for over 100 years. They run on fuel made from oil, called **gasoline**, which is burned inside the car's engine to make it go. When a driver presses the gas pedal, gasoline is sent to the engine. Inside, small explosions power the car's parts and turn the wheels. The burned fuel creates gases, which exit through the tailpipe. Gasoline cars can drive long distances and are easy to refuel at gas stations. However, burning fuel creates pollution, which can harm the air and the planet.

## How Electric Cars Work

Electric cars don't use gasoline at all. Instead, they run on electricity stored in a battery. These cars use electric motors to turn the wheels. To "fill up" an electric car, you plug it into a charger. The electricity gives power to the battery, just like charging a phone or tablet. There are no explosions inside the car, and there's no tailpipe gas. Electric cars are quieter and cleaner than gasoline cars. They don't pollute the air, but they do need to be recharged more often. Some charging stations take longer than a gas pump.

# Name:

# How Gasoline Cars Work & How Electric Cars Work

- 1. What do both gasoline and electric cars have in common?
  - A. They are vehicles that move people using an engine or motor.
  - B. They both use tailpipes to send out gas.
  - C. They are only used for racing.
- D. They both need fuel made from oil.

- 2. How is the electric car different from a gasoline car?
- A. It uses electricity instead of fuel and doesn't make tailpipe pollution.
- B. It burns gas faster than a truck.
- C. It has no wheels or windows.
- D. It only works in warm weather.

3. Fill in the blank:
Gasoline cars create <b>pollution</b> , but electric cars are better for the
4. What is one main point in the gasoline car passage and one in the electric car passage?
5. How does reading both passages help you understand the differences between these cars?

### **Parent and Teacher Guide**

Guide Reading Level: P Lexile Level: 645L-795L

Grade Level: 3rd Grade, End of the Year

**Genre**: Informational / Technology

#### Introducing the Text

"Today we'll compare two types of cars—gasoline and electric. We'll read two passages to understand how each kind works, their pros and cons, and how they affect the environment. Then we'll compare the most important points from each."

Vocabulary: gasoline, battery, engine, electric motor, pollution

#### **Before Reading Discussion Questions**

- 1. Have you ever ridden in a car? Do you know if it was electric or gasoline?
- 2. Why do people use cars every day?
- 3. What do you think makes electric cars different?

#### **During Reading Discussion Questions**

- 1. What is the power source for each car?
- 2. What kind of pollution does a gasoline car produce?
- 3. What are the benefits of using electricity instead?

#### **After Reading Discussion Questions**

- 1. How are gasoline and electric cars similar and different?
- 2. What is the most important idea in each passage?
- 3. Which car would you rather use, and why?

#### **Activity Idea**

Have students create a comparison chart showing the similarities and differences between gasoline and electric cars. Then they will write a short paragraph explaining which car they think is better for the future and why, using evidence from both texts.

