

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Reasons and Evidence

Read the short story and answer each question.



## Should Plastic Straws Be Banned?

Every day, people in the United States use over 500 million plastic straws. Many of those straws end up in oceans, rivers, and landfills. Some people believe plastic straws should be banned to help protect the environment. Others argue that banning straws could cause problems for people who rely on them.

One reason to ban plastic straws is that they harm sea life. Straws often end up in the ocean, where turtles, fish, and seabirds can mistake them for food. According to the Ocean Conservancy, plastic has been found in 100% of sea turtles studied. By banning straws, we can help reduce the amount of plastic that enters oceans and harms animals.

Another reason is that plastic straws never fully break down. They can last for hundreds of years, creating more and more waste over time. Replacing plastic straws with paper, metal, or reusable options could cut down on pollution.

However, not everyone agrees with a full ban. Some people with disabilities need plastic straws to drink safely. Unlike metal or paper straws, plastic ones can bend, don't get soggy, and don't cause injury. For these individuals, plastic straws are not just convenient—they are necessary.

Instead of banning straws completely, some cities have passed laws that limit straw use but still allow them when needed. These rules try to balance protecting the environment with helping people who need plastic straws.

So—should plastic straws be banned? It depends on how we balance caring for the planet with caring for one another.



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

## Should Plastic Straws Be Banned?

1. Which point is supported by the fact that plastic straws harm sea animals?

- A. Straws are popular with kids.
- B. Plastic should be used for all drinking needs.
- C. Plastic straws should be banned to help protect wildlife.
- D. Plastic straws are safer than other materials.

2. What evidence does the author use to support the idea that plastic straws don't break down?

- A. They float in soda and water.
- B. They are used by people with disabilities.
- C. They can last for hundreds of years.
- D. They are banned in every state.

3. Fill in the blank:

According to the article, some cities have created laws that \_\_\_\_\_ straw use but still allow them when needed.

4. What are two reasons the author gives in support of banning plastic straws? How does each reason support the main idea?

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5. Why does the author include the counterpoint about people with disabilities? What does that add to the argument?

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** S

**Lexile Level:** 850L-1000L

**Grade Level:** 5th Grade, Beginning of the Year

**Genre:** Persuasive Informational Text / Environmental

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## Introducing the Text

*“Today we’re going to read a persuasive article that presents different points about banning plastic straws. As we read, we’ll look at how the author supports each point with reasons and evidence. We’ll also think about how opposing points are handled in the text.”*

**Vocabulary:** ban, pollution, disability, evidence, reusable

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What are some everyday items that create waste?
  2. Why do you think people might want to ban plastic straws?
  3. What makes a reason strong enough to support an argument?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What reasons does the author give to support banning plastic straws?
  2. What evidence does the author provide to show that plastic straws are harmful?
  3. How does the author address people who disagree?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. Do you think the author supports banning plastic straws? Why or why not?
  2. Was the evidence in the article convincing? Which fact or reason stood out most?
  3. If you were writing your own article about plastic straws, what points would you include?
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## Activity Idea

Students will write a two-paragraph opinion response explaining whether they believe plastic straws should be banned. They must include at least one reason from the article and one of their own. Then, they’ll create a poster or infographic using icons and facts to persuade others.

