

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Reasons and Evidence

Read the short story and answer each question.



Should Kids Have Cell Phones?

Cell phones are everywhere today. Many adults use them for work and emergencies—but what about kids? Some people believe children should have their own phones, while others argue that kids are too young for such responsibility.

One reason kids should have phones is for safety. If a child gets lost or there's an emergency, they can quickly call a parent or 911. According to the National Safety Council, children with phones are more likely to report unsafe situations when they happen. Phones can also provide GPS tracking, which gives parents peace of mind.

Another reason is communication. Kids with phones can stay in touch with family, especially if they live in different households or have after-school activities. Texting and video calls help kids build relationships, even when they're apart.

However, opponents argue that phones are a major distraction. The Pew Research Center found that 59% of teachers say phones make it harder for students to focus. Games, social media, and texting can interfere with learning and sleep.

Another concern is screen time. The American Academy of Pediatrics warns that too much screen use can affect mental health, sleep, and physical activity. Kids may also be exposed to inappropriate content or online bullying.

Some schools and families have found a middle ground. They allow kids to use phones only after school, with strict rules and parental controls.

So, should kids have cell phones? It depends on their maturity, needs, and the boundaries set by adults.



Name: _____

Should Kids Have Cell Phones?

1. What evidence is used to support the idea that phones help keep kids safe?

- A. Kids can use phones to call friends during school.
- B. Phones provide GPS tracking and access to emergency services.
- C. Phones are more fun than walkie-talkies.
- D. Most kids already know how to use apps.

2. How does the article support the idea that phones can be a distraction?

- A. It says kids don't like talking to adults.
- B. It includes research from teachers and pediatricians.
- C. It says phones cost a lot of money.
- D. It tells a story about a kid who lost their phone.

3. Fill in the blank:

The Pew Research Center found that _____ of teachers say phones make it harder for students to focus.

4. What are two reasons the author gives in favor of kids having cell phones? What evidence supports those reasons?

5. How does the author show both sides of the issue, and why is that important?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: T

Lexile Level: 900L-1050L

Grade Level: 5th Grade, Beginning of the Year

Genre: Persuasive Informational Text / Social Studies

Introducing the Text

“Today we’ll read about a common debate: should kids have cell phones? As we read, we’ll practice identifying the author’s points and looking at the reasons and evidence that support them. We’ll also notice how the article presents both sides of the argument clearly and fairly.”

Vocabulary: distraction, emergency, tracking, inappropriate, boundaries

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Do you think kids should have phones? Why or why not?
 2. What kinds of things do people use cell phones for?
 3. Why do you think some adults might worry about kids having phones?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What evidence is used to support giving kids phones for safety?
 2. How does the author describe the risks of phones for children?
 3. Does the article take one side more strongly, or try to stay balanced?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. Which point do you agree with most, and why?
 2. Was the evidence in the article convincing? Why or why not?
 3. How might a parent use this article to help decide what’s best for their child?
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Activity Idea

Students will conduct a class debate or create a pro/con chart. Then, they’ll write a short opinion paragraph using one reason from the article and one original reason of their own. Encourage them to include evidence to back up their opinion.

