

SXC Are You Safer Than a 5th Grader?

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Fox network's hit TV game show "Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?" has publicly humiliated many good-natured adults. Apparently, what they're teaching kids in schools these days is better than we suspected.

So if 5th Graders are smarter than the average North American adult, are they safer, too? Let's find out. We scoured the curricula of Canadian and American 5th graders and compiled eight safety-related questions.

There's one question for each of these categories: Food Safety, Electrical Safety, Fire Safety, Bicycle Safety, Ergonomics, Flood Safety and Lightning Safety. There's also a Bonus Question. Can you pass the test?

5th Grade Food Safety

You're picking up groceries for the family barbecue. You've bought raw chicken, raw hamburger, buns, vegetables and mayonnaise. Which is the best way to bag all of this?

- A. Save the earth and use one bag for everything.
- B. Put the vegetables in one bag and everything else in another bag.
- C. Bag the raw chicken and hamburger separately from everything else.

5th Grade Food Safety answer

The correct answer is C.

It's important to prevent juices from raw chicken and meat from dripping onto other foods or food containers. Carefully contain raw chicken and meat to avoid cross-contamination.

5th Grade Electrical Safety

Why is the human body a good conductor of electricity?

5th Grade Electrical Safety answer

The human body is a good conductor of electricity because it contains mostly water.

5th Grade Fire Safety

How many medical classifications are there for burns?

5th Grade Fire Safety answer

The correct answer is Three. There are first, second and third-degree burns.

5th Grade Bicycle Safety

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What is the single most important thing a bicyclist can do to prevent serious injuries and death?

5th Grade Bicycle Safety answer

To prevent serious injuries and death, the single most important thing a bicyclist can do is wear a helmet!

5th Grade Ergonomics

Which of the following is NOT an element of proper posture when using a keyboard?

- A. Feet flat on the floor
- B. Lower back supported by chair
- C. Elbows stiff and straight in front of body
- D. Wrists flat
- E. Fingers gently curled

5th Grade Ergonomics answer

The correct answer is C. Your elbows should rest comfortably at your side, so that your wrists aren't forced into an awkward position.

5th Grade Flood Safety

Floods are the most common and widespread of all weather-related natural disasters. Floods are dangerous for motorists because just two feet of moving water is enough to lift up a car and carry it away.

- True
- False

5th Grade Flood Safety answer

The correct answer is True.

Your vehicle, just like a ship, will float because of buoyancy. Six inches of water can cause a car to go out of control. In just 18 to 24 inches of moving water, most cars (even trucks and SUVs) can be swept away, and you will have no way of steering or stopping. Remember: nearly half of all flash flood deaths are vehicle-related.

5th Grade Lightning Safety

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If you can't get inside a building during a lightning storm, you should get shelter beneath a tall tree.

True

False

5th Grade Lightning Safety answer

The correct answer is False.

During a lightning storm, you are most safe in a house. However, if you can't get shelter during a storm, you should stay away from tall, isolated objects, such as trees or posts. And make sure you're not the tallest object by crouching down and keeping your head down. (But do not lie flat on the ground.)

Bonus Question

In the 1950s, Swedish engineer Nils Bohlin invented a safety device that has been credited with saving more than four thousand lives a year in the US alone. What is the device?

Bonus Question answer

The three-point seatbelt.

In 1958, Nils Bohlin was recruited by Volvo to become its first safety engineer. While with Volvo, Bohlin conducted a year of testing and engineering, and determined that placing straps across the chest and hips was the most efficient way to safely restrain passengers in high-speed crash situations.

End of Quiz

How did you do? On the TV show, contestants get 3 "cheats." If you needed to cheat a little to make it through the quiz, that's ok as far as a game goes. Just remember - peeking at someone else's notes is not always an option in real life.