

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

Smarter Cars for Clean Air

Cars take us to school, work, and anywhere else we want to go. We rely on cars to get us to a wide variety of places . . . and fast! There is no doubt that the automobile has made our lives easier. But there is also no doubt that cars are slowly killing our planet. It is time to rethink how we use cars in our daily lives.

While cars have given us the convenience of easy travel, the pollution they cause is a serious consequence. The Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, says that gas-powered vehicles such as cars, trucks, and bulldozers are the main cause of air pollution in large cities in the United States. In fact, they cause air pollution throughout the entire world. Environmentalists have talked about the dangerous effects of air pollution for decades. One way to stop this pollution is to buy hybrids. These are cars that run on both gasoline and electricity.

Vehicles cause air pollution because they run on a fossil fuel. When this fuel is burned in the process of running a car, pollutants are released into the air. As long ago as the early 1900s, some experts said that burning gasoline in automobiles could damage the environment. Studies show that we are now paying the price with our quality of air today. Those experts were right!

Hybrid vehicles currently coexist with gas-powered cars. Hybrids significantly reduce the pollution we release into the air. It is true that these cars still use gasoline. But they certainly use a lot less of it. Hybrid cars utilize a combination of gasoline and electricity. One specific type of hybrid is especially green. It relies mostly on electric power. An electric motor turns the car's wheels, and gasoline is used to generate the electricity. The car is recharged by plugging it into an electrical outlet.

If everyone drove a hybrid car, the amount of pollution from gas would be hugely reduced. The only way to transform the automobile industry in this way is through legislation. The government could make it a requirement that all new car owners buy hybrids. Drivers would not be allowed to buy cars that only run on gasoline. We would also be conserving our fossil fuels for other machines.

GO ON →

Hybrid cars have other advantages, too. Since they use gasoline, they can be refueled at any gas station in an emergency. The driver would not be left stranded if there is nowhere to charge the battery. Hybrids do not require a huge lifestyle change for drivers. They are similar to gas-powered cars. They just have one major difference: they greatly improve our environment.

Hybrid cars are the best choice to reduce air pollution around the world. Car manufacturers should be required to stop selling the gas-guzzling cars of yesterday. Instead, they should sell hybrids at reasonable prices so that most people could afford them. The future of our planet is at stake!

1 Read the paragraph from the text.

Vehicles cause air pollution because they run on a fossil fuel. When this fuel is burned in the process of running a car, pollutants are released into the air. As long ago as the early 1900s, some experts said that burning gasoline in automobiles could damage the environment. Studies show that we are now paying the price with our quality of air today. Those experts were right!

How does the information in this paragraph support the author’s point of view?

- A by describing how fossil fuels are made inside the earth
- B by providing examples of types of pollution from the 1900s
- C by explaining that cars pollute the air because they run on a fossil fuel
- D by giving evidence that hybrids help reduce pollution

2 Read the sentence from the text.

Hybrid vehicles currently coexist with gas-powered cars.

The Latin prefix *co-* means “together.” What does the word coexist mean?

- A be in the same place
- B compete against
- C perform better
- D control

3 Read the sentence from the text.

The only way to transform the automobile industry in this way is through legislation.

The Latin prefix *trans-* means “across,” “beyond,” “through,” or “change thoroughly.” What does the word transform mean?

- A move across the country
- B change completely
- C go through
- D prevent

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Student Name _____

- 4 Which sentence from the text **best** expresses the author’s message?
- A “While cars have given us the convenience of easy travel, the pollution they cause is a serious consequence.”
 - B “One specific type of hybrid is especially green.”
 - C “Hybrids do not require a huge lifestyle change for drivers.”
 - D “Hybrid cars are the best choice to reduce air pollution around the world.”

5 Complete the chart. Fill in the text evidence that supports each of the author’s messages. Use the text from the box below.

| Author’s Message | Text Evidence |
|--|---------------|
| Gas-powered vehicles are hurting the planet. | |
| Hybrid cars are better for the environment. | |
| Everyone should drive a hybrid car. | |

Text Evidence:

“The government could make it a requirement that all new car owners buy hybrids.”

“The Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, says that gas-powered vehicles such as cars, trucks, and bulldozers are the main cause of air pollution in large cities in the United States.”

“Hybrids could significantly reduce the pollution we release into the air. It is true that these cars still use gasoline. But they certainly use a lot less of it.”

