

Science Article of the Week

Huh? Teens, tweens suffer hearing loss (1180L)

Instructions: COMPLETE ALL QUESTIONS AND MARGIN NOTES

Read the following article carefully and **make notes in the margin** as you read.

Your notes should include:

- Comments that show that you **understand** the article. (A summary or statement of the main idea of important sections may serve this purpose.)
- Questions you have that show what you are **wondering** about as you read.
- Notes that differentiate between **fact** and **opinion**.
- Observations about how the **writer's strategies** (organization, word choice, perspective, support) and choices affect the article.

Your **margin notes** are part of your score for this assessment.

Answer the questions carefully in **complete sentences** unless otherwise instructed.

Student _____ **Class Period** _____

Huh? Teens, tweens suffer hearing loss



A stunning one in five teens has lost a little bit of hearing, and the problem has increased substantially in recent years, a new national study has found.

Some experts are urging teenagers to turn down the volume on their digital music players, suggesting loud music through earbuds may be to blame — although hard evidence is lacking. They warn that slight hearing loss can cause problems in school and set the stage for hearing aids in later life.

The researchers analyzed data on 12- to 19-year-olds from a nationwide health survey. Based on the survey, that would mean about 6.5 million with at least slight hearing loss.

Most of the hearing loss was "slight," defined as inability to hear at 16 to 24

*Notes on my thoughts,
reactions and questions as I
read:*

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decibels — or sounds such as a whisper or rustling leaves. A teenager with slight hearing loss might not be able to hear water dripping or his mother whispering "good night."

Those with slight hearing loss "will hear all of the vowel sounds clearly, but might miss some of the consonant sounds" such as t, k and s.

While the researchers didn't single out iPods or any other device for blame, they found a significant increase in high-frequency hearing loss, which they said may indicate that noise caused the problems. And they cited a 2010 Australian study that linked use of personal listening devices with a 70 percent increased risk of hearing loss in children.

Loud music isn't new, of course. Each new generation of teenagers has found a new technology to blast music — from the bulky headphones of the 1960s to the handheld Sony Walkmans of the 1980s.

Today's young people are listening longer, more than twice as long as previous generations, said Brian Fligor, an audiologist at Children's Hospital Boston. The older technologies had limited battery life and limited music storage, he said.

One of Fligor's patients, 17-year-old Matthew Brady of Foxborough, Mass., recently was diagnosed with mild hearing loss. He has trouble hearing his friends in the school cafeteria. He ends up faking comprehension.

"I laugh when they laugh," he said.

Fligor believes Brady's muffled hearing was caused by listening to an iPod turned up too loud and for too long. After his mother had a heart attack, Brady's pediatrician had advised him to exercise for his own health. So he cranked up the volume on his favorites — John Mellencamp, Daughtry, Bon Jovi and U2 — while walking on a treadmill at least four days a week for 30-minute stretches.

One day last summer, he got off the treadmill and found he couldn't hear anything with his left ear. His hearing gradually returned, but was never the same.

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1. *The article mentions three specific types of technology associated with loud music and potential hearing loss. Next to each era, list the device mentioned in the article.*

1960s _____

1980s _____

Present _____

2. *Based on the survey, there would be about 6.5 million teens with at least slight hearing loss. Using this information and other data from the article. How many teens are there in the US? Show your math. Label your answer.*

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3. *List three reasons today's loud music has more of a detrimental effect on hearing loss than music of the past. The exact answers are in the article. Do not guess.*

1.

2.

3.

4. *One popular way to respond to news articles is through a blog. A blog is a place on the web where individuals and groups can record opinions and information. Listed below is an example of a blog posted about this article. In the space below either respond to this blog or create your own blog based on this article. Your response should be a minimum of 3 sentences.*

“Submitted by peytondms1 on Tuesday, 01/17/2012 - 15:54.

I definitely do not be one of the five teens who suffer from hearing loss. People do need to turn down there music because if you can hear it out of the headphones its way too loud. Alot of people do it and they need to stop before they have to wear hearing aids.”