Know the News: “Our Water Was Poison”

Read the article on pages 6-11, then answer the questions.

1. Which is a central idea of the article?
   - Nearly 100,000 people live in Flint, Michigan.
   - The state of Michigan gave free bottled water to Flint residents for more than two years.
   - The water crisis still affects Flint residents more than five years after it started.
   - Flint was once a prosperous Midwestern city.

2. Which detail best supports the answer to question 1?
   - “But that industrial boom ended in the 1980s, when General Motors . . . closed its factories there.”
   - “In January 2016, the state began delivering free bottled water to residents to use in place of tap water.”
   - “Michigan and the U.S. government have committed $150 million to pay for . . . water-related improvement projects in Flint.”
   - “Yet the Environmental Protection Agency continues to warn Flint residents not to drink, cook with, or even brush their teeth with unfiltered tap water until all of the corroded pipes are removed.”

3. Which was not a sign that Flint’s tap water was contaminated?
   - Children got rashes after bathing in the water.
   - The water was sometimes brown or orange.
   - The water often ran out.
   - Some people’s hair started falling out in clumps.

4. Which event happened most recently?
   - State officials switched the source of Flint’s water to the Flint River.
   - Workers started replacing Flint’s pipes.
   - City and state officials declared a state of emergency in Flint.
   - Leaders admitted that Flint’s drinking water was contaminated.

5. What does elevated mean in this sentence?
   - “The number of kids in Flint with elevated lead levels in their blood had nearly doubled between 2013 and 2015.”
   - healthy
   - common
   - raised
   - decreased

6. Which two words from the article are most similar in meaning?
   - prosperous and damaged
   - insisted and donated
   - grassroots and corroded
   - toxic and contaminated

7. When does the mayor of Flint expect the work replacing the city’s pipes to be finished?
   - in 2019
   - in 2022
   - in 2025
   - in 2044

8. What is the main purpose of the article’s last two paragraphs on page 10?
   - to illustrate how officials plan to end the crisis
   - to show how Flint residents help each other
   - to describe how Flint has changed
   - to encourage people to test their own water

9. Which word best describes activist Mari Copeny?
   - adventurous
   - discouraged
   - determined
   - ignored

10. Which detail best supports the answer to question 9?
   - Former President Barack Obama reminded Mari to do her homework.
   - Mari has more than 104,000 Twitter followers.
   - Mari’s nickname is Little Miss Flint.
   - Mari has raised more than half a million dollars for the people of Flint.