

## Ricky Sees Gas Prices Rise Sky High

Every day when Ricky goes to school and comes home from school he usually notices that gas prices go up and then back down. But the past few weeks Ricky has noticed that prices keep getting higher and higher! He listens patiently to the adults around him as they complain about how expensive gas is nowadays and how different things used to be in the olden days. He listens to the stories of how his parents used to walk 5 miles to and from school, to the stores, and to friends' homes. Ricky pictured himself doing this and comes up with a plan to tell his parents. Since gas prices are so high then why don't you save money and let's walk everywhere. His parents snicker and tell him that today that isn't possible.

Ricky sits back and asks himself...

*If gas prices are so high then why won't everyone walk everywhere instead of use vehicles?*

### Handy Dandy Guide

1. People choose to do things they think are best for them.
2. People's choices have costs.
3. People choose to do things for which they are rewarded.
4. People create rules that affect our choices and how we act.
5. People gain when they freely decide to trade with one another.
6. People's choices today have future results.

## Ricky Sees Gas Prices Rise Sky High

**Directions.** Read the Handy Dandy Guide, the clues and the mystery to help find a solution to Ricky's question.

### Handy Dandy Guide

1. People *choose* to do things they think are best for them.
2. People's choices have *costs*.
3. People choose to do things for which they are *rewarded*.
4. People create *rules* that affect our choices and how we act.
5. People gain when they freely decide to *trade* with one another.
6. People's choices today have *future results*.

### The Mystery

Every day when Ricky goes to school and comes home from school he usually notices that gas prices go up and then back down. But the past few weeks Ricky has noticed that prices keep getting higher and higher! He listens patiently to the adults around him as they complain about how expensive gas is nowadays and how different things used to be in the olden days. He listens to the stories of how his parents used to walk 5 miles to and from school, to the stores, and to friends' homes. Ricky pictured himself doing this and comes up with a plan to tell his parents. Since gas prices are so high then why don't you save money and let's walk everywhere. His parents snicker and tell him that today that isn't possible.

Ricky sits back and asks himself...

*If gas prices are so high then why won't everyone walk everywhere instead of use vehicles?*

### True or False Clues

Read each statement and mark it true or false.

1. Most people walk to get somewhere. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Industries (car/oil/gas/etc.) would be hurt financially if people walked everywhere. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Using vehicles for transportation saves a lot of time and energy. \_\_\_\_\_
4. People are not dependent on gas ran transportation and would function normally from day to day without it. \_\_\_\_\_

### Solution

Solve the mystery using the Handy Dandy Guide and the true and false clues. Explain briefly below.

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## Rational

### Ricky Sees Gas Prices Rise Sky High

*If gas prices are so high then why won't everyone walk everywhere instead of use vehicles?*

1. People *choose* to do things they think are best for them.
  - a. People chose to use gas ran transportation (cars/planes/motorcycles/trains) to go places because they believe that it is best for them to save time. Walking places would take too long and we wouldn't have enough time to get everything that we need to get done today. Transportation also sets people free of extreme weather and can serve as protection from rain/snow/cold/hot weather. Transportation is best to get somewhere looking the same way as when you left your home.
2. People's choices have *costs*.
  - a. Making the choice to use gas transportation that uses gas has the cost of the high gas prices. As more and more people make this choice then the demand of gas/oil goes up and the resource of oil to make gas diminishes. The supply of oil goes down and the prices go up. Finding alternate sources to use as gas cost a lot of money and getting oil from hard places can also be timely and cost a lot of money.
3. People choose to do things for which they are *rewarded*.
  - a. By using gas transportation people are rewarded by more time and having more time can be very rewarding. More time can be used with family, to work more, make more money, more time to have on vacation etc. Transportation can reward people by bringing them to different places around the world at faster speeds than boat or walking. People are rewarded in their own ways in how they chose to use transportation.
4. People create *rules* that affect our choices and how we act.
  - a. In order to use gas transportation there are laws on how old you have to be etc. But in order to get from place to place using this transportation you have to put gas into it for it to go. This affects how much we chose to drive, what routs we chose, how much we work in order to afford gas prices, where we live, etc. Very few people chose to walk or ride bikes to get from place to place to not have to use money for gas but sometimes they don't have enough time. Many rules are placed on society to be on time, to go to multiple places in one day and without gas transportation then we would not be able to function the same day to day.
5. People gain when they freely decide to *trade* with one another.
  - a. People make the choice to trade their hard earned money for gas to be able to live their life the same on a day to day basis. People gain more time and energy from trading money for gas.
6. People's choices today have *future results*.
  - a. People's choices and lifestyle's today will have an enormous impact what the future hold for us. The earth may not have enough oil to supply us with as much gas we use today. This could lead

to more research and more ways for us to get from places to place. Using gas transportation has a huge impact on our environment. But regardless of the future results of what we will have and how it affects the earths it has results of more time and energy for people now and that for most people means more than the more long term results.

### **Answers to True and False Clues**

1. Most people walk to get somewhere. FLASE
2. Industries (car/oil/gas/etc.) would be hurt financially if people walked everywhere. TRUE
3. Using vehicles for transportation saves a lot of time and energy. TRUE
4. People are not dependent on gas ran transportation and would function normally from day to day without it. FLASE

### **Answer (flexible) to Solution**

Even though gases prices are raising very high most people are still willing to pay any amount to be able to use transportation. Without the uses of transportation many peoples way of life would be disturbed. Using gas transportation allows us to live our very busy lives comfortably. If we didn't have this luxury it would takes a lot of time to get from place to place. Many parents wouldn't be able to pick kids up from school, get them to the doctors if they needed to go, to see their family etc. As you can see humans have adjusted to this luxury and without it the world would be in chaos and maybe with that economic failure.