Comprehension Check

Recycled Plastics: A Solution or a New Problem?

Read the article carefully before answering the questions.

Plastic waste is one of the world's most urgent environmental problems. So far, less than 10% of global plastic waste has been recycled, and scientists have detected tiny plastic particles — called microplastics — in human blood, lungs, and even breast milk.

Recycling seems like an obvious solution. But is it always safe? According to a new report by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), recycled plastics used in food packaging can contain dangerous chemicals, including flame retardants and heavy metals. These substances can migrate into the food we eat.

"Plastic waste is a growing global problem. But we need to make sure that by trying to solve one problem, we don't create new ones." — Vittorio Fattori, FAO

Some companies are turning to bioplastics — packaging made from plants like corn or sugarcane. However, "bio-based" does not always mean safe or biodegradable. The FAO is now calling for stronger global safety standards to protect both the environment and human health.

Name: _____ **Class:** _____ **Date:** _____

Q1 Multiple choice

According to the article, what percentage of global plastic waste has been recycled so far?

A. Less than 10%
B. About 25%
C. Nearly 50%
D. Over 60%

Q2 True or False

Microplastics have been found in human blood, lungs, and breast milk.

True False

Q3 Multiple choice

What is the main warning from the FAO about recycled plastics used in food packaging?

A. They are too expensive to produce.
B. They may contain harmful chemicals that migrate into food.
C. They break down too quickly.
D. They are not accepted by most countries.

Q4 True or False

"Bio-based" packaging always means it is safe and biodegradable.

True False

Q5 Fill in the blank

Complete the sentence using a word from the article.

The FAO is calling for stronger global _____ standards to protect the environment and human health.

Q6 Short answer

In your own words, explain why recycling plastic is not always a perfect solution.

Use at least one detail from the article.

LIVEWORKSHEETS