

**TEACHER'S NOTES 1**

# WHAT DO PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT RADON?

**BACKGROUND**

The radon survey can provide you with an informal assessment of your students' familiarity with radon. In this activity, both students and their parents will complete the survey. Once the surveys have been completed, have the students compute the mean scores for each question in a spreadsheet format as shown on the talley sheet, using a calculator. This could be done on the chalkboard, an overhead projector, or an easel. Alternatively, graphing activities can be done by hand.

**WARM-UP**

Prior to distributing the Radon Survey, share with students some sample surveys that often appear in the mail from an elected official, consumer advocacy group, or environmental group. Pass out samples of these surveys so that students can conceptualize the intended audience for the survey as well as the type of information that can be generated from the survey.

**TEACHING TIPS**

Discuss with students the role and importance of surveys in American life to keep elected officials, manufacturers, television executives, and others informed about the general public's reaction to new products, programs, services, and legislation. Review with students specific conventions for constructing a survey, including how to word questions to avoid ambiguity or how to rate responses (e.g., Likert scale - agree, not sure, disagree or forced choice - yes, no).

**GROUPING**

A large group is suggested so that students can benefit from and respond to the comments from their peers. Afterwards, students can work individually to complete the Radon Survey.

**MINIMUM RECOMMENDED TIME ALLOCATION**

Complete the parent survey two days in advance. Allocate one class period for data analysis and discussion.

**LEARNING PROCESS SKILLS**Science

Communicating  
Inferring  
Comparing  
Categorizing

Math

Classifying  
Investigating  
Analyzing

Social Studies

Defining and  
classifying  
problems

Social or Group

Collaborating with  
others  
Recognizing different  
points of view

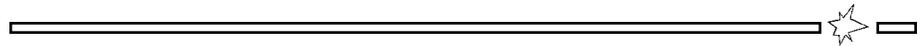
**STUDENT RESPONSES**

We have found that many schools have determined answers to the survey questions as shown in the row labeled "Common Responses". However, the purpose of the survey is not to evaluate the correctness of student responses, but rather to introduce some of the key concepts that are presented in the lesson plans that follow and to introduce some basic data manipulation and graphing procedures.

Question Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Common Responses	1	3	1	3	3	1	3	1	3	1

**EXTENDED ACTIVITIES**

1. Have students recalculate means and differences for males vs. females, rather than parents vs. students. Graph and compare these data to determine if a significant difference exists.
2. Have students create their own survey to determine the perceptions of students and parents about other contemporary issues.





**Radon Alert**  
**Lesson Plan Evaluation Sheet**  
**and FREE POSTER AND STORYBOOK offer**

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is happy to provide these lesson plans for use by teachers. In order to evaluate the use of the lesson plans, we would greatly appreciate your response to the following questions. All teachers who return these forms will receive a FREE RADON POSTER depicting information about radon in a colorful format and a STORYBOOK about a Native American child and his experience with radon in his home.

**1. Which Radon Alert lesson plan(s) did you use?**

**2. How useful did you find it/them (check one) ?**

- Not useful
- Slightly useful
- Moderately useful
- Very useful
- Extremely useful

**3. Do you plan to use them again in the future?  Yes  No**

**4. In your view, what would make the lesson plans MORE useful:**

**Your name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Subject area:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing address:**

**To receive your FREE RADON POSTER and STORYBOOK, mail or fax this completed form to:**

**NJDEP Radon Program, P. O. Box 415, Trenton, NJ 08625**

**Fax: 609-984-5595.**

**(Questions? Call the Radon Program at 1-800-648-0394.)**