

## Video Lesson: The Story of Cosmetics

### Part 1: Key Vocabulary

Learn and understand these words and phrases before watching the video. Use a dictionary to write short definitions for each question.

1. crisis	_____
2. to trash	_____
3. toxic	_____
4. personal care products	_____
5. to seep	_____
6. to be assessed	_____
7. carcinogens	_____
8. neurotoxins	_____
9. reproductive toxins	_____
10. consumers	_____
11. producers	_____
12. petrochemical	_____
13. formulated	_____
14. chemistry	_____
15. mind-set	_____
16. human health impacts	_____
17. dose	_____
18. FDA	_____
19. precautionary principle	_____
20. to comply	_____

## **Video Lesson: The Story of Cosmetics**

### **Part 2: Comprehension Questions**

1. Toxic chemicals in personal care products are linked to what kinds of health problems?

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2. How many personal care products does the average US woman and man use daily?

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3. How many chemicals are in a typical personal care product?

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4. How many chemicals in cosmetics have been assessed for safety?

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5. What is the problem with packaging words like 'herbal, natural or organic'?

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6. Describe the irony of the Estee Lauder packaging.

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7. What do the producers claim about the chemicals in their products?

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8. According to the video, why do producers continue to use toxic chemicals in their products?

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9. Does the government protect consumers from dangerous personal care products?

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10. How many ingredients are used in cosmetics?

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11. How many ingredients have been banned by the FDA?

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## **Video Lesson: The Story of Cosmetics**

### **Part 3: Discussion Questions**

1. Summarize the video story in 3 to 5 sentences.

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2. Summarize the video's main message. (one thesis statement)

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3. Describe how the cosmetics industry governs itself.

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4. Describe three initiatives that are increasing the number of safe choices for personal care products.

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## **Video Lesson: The Story of Cosmetics**

### **Part 4: Possible Answers**

1. Toxic chemicals in personal care products are linked to cancer, learning disabilities, asthma and male infertility.
2. On average, women use 12 personal care products per day; men use 6 per day.
3. The average personal care product has 12 or more chemicals.
4. Less than 20% of chemicals in cosmetics have been assessed for safety.
5. The problem with packaging words like 'herbal, natural or organic' is that they have no legal definition, so any company can use these words without a problem.
6. The irony is that the package promotes breast cancer research while telling consumers that some of the chemicals in the product have been linked to cancer.
7. Producers claim that the doses of the chemicals in their products are so small they are harmless.
8. Producers continue to use toxic chemicals in their products for two reasons: they are working from a mindset that says people live better with chemistry; and, there are no laws to prevent them from using the chemicals.
9. No, the FDA does not test or evaluate personal care products or their ingredients.
10. There are 12,000 ingredients used in cosmetics.
11. The FDA has banned 8 ingredients.

### **Discussion Questions: Possible Answers**

1. The video describes how the cosmetics industry is broken. Consumers have a wide range of choices in personal care products but many of those products contain toxic chemicals which create health problems. Producers are allowed to use dangerous chemicals and use misleading packaging names because there are few laws in the US which limit their actions. The video suggests people need to demand changes in the laws that will make cosmetics safe.
2. The personal care products industry is a broken system because it ignores the dangers of toxins, there is little government regulation and consumers have few safe choices.
3. There are few laws that regulate the cosmetics industry. So, they established their own industry committee to oversee their own products. Industry compliance with the committee's recommendations is voluntary. The cosmetics industry makes the rules and then decides whether or not to follow the rules.
4. Here are three initiatives. 1) Some companies already produce safe personal care products. 2) Green chemists are finding alternatives to toxic substances. 3) European governments have banned many chemicals and the producers have found ways to comply.