

Name: _____

RISK ASSESSMENT

There are some activities—like jumping off a cliff—that you would probably never try because you know they are risky. Then there are other activities—like break dancing—that you might try because you know the risk is very low. But there are a lot of other activities that you might not be sure about. How much do you know about the risks of the following activities?

Match the activity below with the number of people who are killed as a result of that activity in one year. (All the statistics refer to yearly deaths in the United States only.)

ACTIVITY	ANNUAL DEATHS
1. Swimming in a shark habitat	a) 16,694
2. Going outside in a thunderstorm	b) 12
3. Driving or riding in a car (total fatalities)	c) 1,961
4. Skydiving	d) 0.5 (1 every 2 yrs)
5. Playing with a dog	e) 780
6. Death after driving drunk or riding as a passenger with a drunk driver	f) approx. 1,146,500
7. Riding a bike	g) 1,393
8. Swimming in a pool or natural body of water	h) 41
9. Binge drinking	i) 31
10. Drinking heavily for years	j) 43,005

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

Answer these on a separate sheet of paper after you have consulted the Answer Key.

1. How many did you get right?
2. Which activities surprised you the most? Why?
3. Have you changed your opinion about how risky some of the activities are? Which ones?
4. Which activities do you consider the riskiest? How can you reduce your risk of being harmed by them?

The Answer Key for this activity appears on the next page.

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NOTES

All statistics are averages unless noted below. All numbers refer to United States deaths only.

2. According to the Florida Museum of Natural History, an average of 41 people die by being struck by lightning each year in the US.
3. Refers to 2002 crash fatalities statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
5. According to National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, an average of 12 people die each year in the US from dog attacks.
6. Refers to 2004 statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. This number represents 39 percent of all traffic deaths.
8. Refers to 2002 statistics from the National Safety Council.
An average of 1,393 people die of alcohol poisoning every year (statistics from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism for 1996-98).
10. An estimated 1,146,500 people die each year from alcohol-related diseases. That includes about 17,500 from chronic liver disease, 949,000 from heart disease, and 180,000 from strokes. (While statistics are not available for the number of deaths specifically caused by alcohol, heavy drinking is a major risk factor for each cause of death.) Statistics from the American Heart Association, Centers for Disease Control, CollegeDrinkingPrevention.com.