## Pop quiz!

Which of the following characters was featured in an old cigarette ad?

A) A Baby







C) Santa



Trick question!

All of them were once featured in cigarette ads (Google it to see!).

It might be surprising that such good-natured characters would be used to advertise cigarettes. But while people have smoked tobacco for thousands of years, it was not until scientists began studying how smoking affects people that we realized how it damages health: through lung cancer, heart and respiratory disease, and more.

It was even more recently that the science on secondhand smoke became clear: cigarettes don't only harm the people smoking them, but the people nearby, too. Just being around someone who is smoking contributes to asthma, lung disease, heart disease, cancer, and other health problems.

This was a very important scientific finding, and it took the work of a lot of scientists, including scientists from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). That's because, in science,



being sure about your results requires that other scientists come to the same conclusion in their studies.

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of a landmark EPA health assessment entitled Respiratory Health Effects of Passive Smoking: Lung Cancer and Other Disorders that put much of that science into perspective. EPA scientists looked at a whole host of scientific studies that had already been done to find out their collective message. They asked: does most or all of that research point to the same conclusion about the health effects of secondhand smoking?

In fact, it did. EPA researchers concluded that secondhand smoke is a human carcinogen, meaning that it causes cancer. In fact, EPA found that exposure to secondhand smoke caused 3,000 Americans to die of lung cancer each year! Babies and young children, EPA reported, were the most sensitive of all, and were more likely to get infections like bronchitis and pneumonia if exposed to secondhand smoke.

With this scientific research, scientists from EPA and elsewhere made a big difference in people's lives. They provided important scientific information to health experts and the public, which made people more aware of the dangers of secondhand smoke. With that information, health officials and others all over the country—and the world—took action to protect people from secondhand smoke. That "No Smoking" sign you see in your favorite restaurant, in every school, and just about any other place kids like to go—it's there because scientists helped people learn that secondhand smoke is bad for everyone.

Throughout the article above, there were a number of words and phrases in red letters. See if you can find all of them in the word search below.

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