

Name _____

Date _____

Hydrofracking and Forests

1. Read “Fracking Fury” by Janna Palliser. Based on this reading, answer the following questions:
 - a. What is hydrofracking?

Hydrofracking is a mechanical process that allows us to get natural gas from shale rock that is deep underground. Large cracks, or fractures, are created by pumping lots of fluid (water and chemicals) down into a well and into the rock. When the rock begins to fracture, natural gas that was inside the rock moves up and is captured by the drilling process.

- b. Where is the closest shale gas available to you?

Answers will vary.

- c. Complete the chart below, based on the reading.

Benefits of Hydrofracking	Drawbacks of Hydrofracking
<i>Provides a source of energy – natural gas</i>	<i>Uses a lot of water</i>
<i>Provides jobs</i>	<i>Can pollute groundwater</i>
<i>Natural gas is a cleaner fuel than coal or oil</i>	<i>Creates a lot of polluted waste water</i>
<i>Less reliance on foreign sources of gas</i>	<i>Can cause earthquakes</i>
	<i>May affect human health from water or air pollution associated with the drilling</i>

- d. Based on what you have read, do you think hydrofracking should be allowed to continue? Explain your answer, using evidence from the article.

Answers will vary.

2. Use the graph below to answer the following questions. This study, conducted by scientists at Duke University, examined methane concentrations in drinking water wells located at various distances from Marcellus gas wells in Pennsylvania.

