

# Saving for a Cause!: Pennies for Your Health!

Have you ever saved money to do or buy something special? Cindy Evans and her third-grade class saved pennies as part of a class project. What do you think Evans and her class did with the more than 1 million pennies they collected?



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*The graph above shows the number of pennies Cindy Evans and her class collected during each of the five weeks of their project.*

In 2000, Cindy Evans's third-grade class was reading about the Great American Smokeout in *Weekly Reader*. Ms. Evans teaches at Big Beaver Elementary School in Big Beaver, Pennsylvania.

The Smokeout is a day to help people quit smoking. The American Cancer Society organizes, or runs, the event.

"We read that about 1 million people quit smoking each year," said Ms. Evans. That's when her students asked her the question, "What does a million look like?" Ms. Evans told her class the only way to see 1 million was to collect 1 million objects.

"I was thinking about collecting macaroni," said the teacher. But her students had a better idea: to collect 1 million pennies to donate to the American Cancer Society. Soon the class

was on a mission to collect 1 million pennies, or \$10,000, by June.

## A Project for All

The class project of collecting pennies quickly involved the whole community. According to Ms. Evans, the local bank had to order extra supplies of pennies because so many people were collecting the coins.

That June, the class presented the local office of the American Cancer Society with 1,177,500 pennies, or \$11,775.

## The Great American Smokeout

The Great American Smokeout will take place on November 15, [2012]. For the past 36 years [since 1976], the American Cancer Society has run this event to help people quit smoking. The group helps fight **cancer**, an illness that can cause death. Many doctors say that smoking tobacco causes several deadly illnesses.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Before the class collected over 14,000 pennies, they collected
  - A. over 9,000 pennies.
  - B. over 23,000 pennies.
  - C. over 12,000 pennies.
  - D. over 29,000 pennies.
  
2. The author included a graph
  - A. to show how many pennies were collected each week.
  - B. to show how many students collected pennies.
  - C. to show the total number of pennies the class collected.
  - D. to show how many pennies the class needed to collect.
  
3. After the students collected 1 million pennies,
  - A. Ms. Evans suggested they collect macaroni.
  - B. the class decided to start collecting 1 million more pennies.
  - C. the class donated the money to the American Cancer Society.
  - D. the class read about the Great American Smokeout.
  
4. The bank had to order extra pennies because
  - A. so many people in the community were donating pennies.
  - B. 1 million people quit smoking each year.
  - C. the class wanted to collect one million pennies.
  - D. the class wanted to donate money to the American Cancer Society.
  
5. What were some things that the class did before the first week of collecting pennies? Explain.