



Step 4 Discussion may follow. If students' questions were not answered in the reading, students may search for the answers from another source such as <http://www.epa.gov/radon/pubs/citguide.html>.

**Assessment/Evidence**

Completed K-W-L chart

**Adaptations for Beginning Students**

Beginning students may need to listen to the article rather than reading it independently.

**Adaptations for Advanced Students**

After completing the K-W-L chart, advanced students may write a summary of the reading based upon their notes.

**Teacher Reflection/Lesson Evaluation**

This lesson was created by Middletown ABLE.

## Radon – A Hidden Danger

Radon is a colorless, odorless radioactive gas. Radon is a natural substance within the earth's crust that is created from the breakdown of uranium in rocks, soil, and water. When this process occurs outside, radon is released into the atmosphere and it is harmless. However, radon can enter buildings through foundation cracks, gaps around pipes, cracks in floors or walls, weak construction joints, or crawl spaces and become trapped. The people who breathe in these radioactive particles can develop lung cancer. Radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer for smokers, but the most prevalent cause of lung cancer for non-smokers. It is estimated that 21,000 lung-cancer deaths each year are a result of exposure to radon.

Approximately 1 of every 15 U.S. homes has elevated levels of radon. Any type or age or house is susceptible to radon. Radon is more common in homes in the Northeast and Midwest. The Ohio Department of Health estimates that half of Ohio's existing homes have elevated levels of radon. It is recommended that homeowners test for radon in their homes. Test kits can be purchased. A professional can also test for radon.

If high levels of radon are found in the home, it is important to have it fixed through a process called radon mitigation. A professional will seal cracks, gaps around pipes, and other areas through which radon can enter the home. He can also install pipes in the ground to vent radon away from the house. When building a new house, features such as a passive radon control system, vent pipes, or exhaust fans can be added to help prevent radon exposure.

**K**

What I Know About Radon

**W**

What I Want to Know About  
Radon

**L**

What I Learned About Radon