

X Ray Reading Comprehension

X-rays are powerful waves of radiation energy. An X-ray machine makes X-rays and directs them toward an object. X-rays directed at a body pass through the skin and soft tissues, such as muscle. But hard body parts, such as bones, block the X-rays. Special film behind the body captures the image made by the X-rays. When the film is developed, the hard parts appear white on the film. The soft parts appear black. Doctors use X-rays to find diseases such as cancer and to study broken bones. Dentists use them to spot cavities in teeth.

X-rays can damage or destroy the body's cells. To protect the patient, the parts of the body that are outside the area being examined are shielded from the X-rays. But the damaging effects of X-rays can be useful too. Doctors sometimes use X-rays to kill cancerous growths.

X-rays also have many uses outside of medicine. Scientists use X-rays to study the structure of many things, both living and non-living. Special X-ray telescopes pick up X-rays given off by objects in outer space, such as distant stars. Manufacturers use X-rays to find hidden flaws in products. At airports, security equipment uses X-rays to look for hidden weapons in the baggage of travellers.



X Ray Reading Comprehension Task

1. What form of energy are X rays?
2. Why do X rays produce white images of the skeleton on photographic paper?
3. Give four examples of the uses of X rays.
4. What are the dangers of too much exposure to X rays?
5. Which part of the human body has been X rayed in this image?

