

Tobacco use and low birthweight babies

Chapter 4: Student activity 4-A

ANSWER KEY

Resource: March of Dimes, http://www.marchofdimes.com/medicalresources_lowbirthweight.html

Complete the following statements. (The number in parentheses is the number of words in the answer.)

1. Low birthweight affects one in every **14** (1) babies born each year in the United States.
2. Low birthweight is a weight of less than **5 pounds 8 ounces** (4) at birth.
Very low birthweight is a weight of **3 pounds 5 ounces** (4) at birth.
3. The two categories of low birthweight infants are **preterm** (1) and **small-for-date babies** (4).
4. Premature births occur before week **37** of pregnancy (1).
5. Small-for-date babies may be **full term** (2) but are **underweight** (1). Their low birthweight may result from **temporary halting of growth** (4) in the womb.
6. Some babies are both **premature** (1) and **growth retarded** (2).
7. Avoid **smoking** (1). Smokers have **smaller** (1) babies than nonsmokers.
8. Effects of low birthweight:
 - a. A low birthweight premature baby is at greater risk of developing **breathing** (1) problems.
 - b. Explain what RDS is: **Respiratory distress syndrome** (see fact sheet for complete description).
9. Low birthweight babies may have salt or water imbalances or low blood sugar, which can cause **brain damage** (2).
10. A premature baby may be **anemic** (1), which means there are not enough **red blood cells** (3).
11. A low birthweight baby may not have enough **fat** (1) to maintain a normal body temperature.
The end result can be **slow growth** (2).
12. One of the most extreme effects of very low birthweight infants is **bleeding in the brain** (4).
If brain damage or death does not result, those newborns who survive may later have **learning and behavioral problems** (4).
13. In premature babies, two other serious effects may be **heart problems** (or **necrotizing enterocolitis**) (2) and abnormal growth of blood vessels in the eyes which can result in **poor vision** (2) or **blindness** (1).