

What Does an Engineer Do?

by Linda Ruggieri



Do you like to figure out how things work? Are you excited about solving problems? If so, you might think about becoming an engineer.

Engineers work to find solutions to problems. They also design new products that help people.

Some engineers work to make cars safer. Other engineers figure out how to build strong bridges. Some engineers develop new medicines or find better ways to keep foods fresh and safe.

Engineers start by identifying a problem to solve or a new product to design. They search for ways to fix the problem or make the product. They look at different ideas and choose the best one.

Often, engineers make a model and test it. They look for ways to improve what they have made.

Sandra Cruz-Pol is an engineer. She also teaches engineering students at a college. Sandra designs products that let people know when storms and floods are coming. She says it feels good to find ways to improve people's lives.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What do engineers work to find?

- A. solutions to problems
- B. the best colleges in the United States
- C. storms and floods

2. Solving a problem is a process. What is the first step in that process?

- A. identifying the problem
- B. choosing the best idea to solve the problem
- C. searching for ways to fix the problem

3. Read this paragraph from the article.

"Do you like to figure out how things work? Are you excited about solving problems? If so, you might think about becoming an engineer."

What can be concluded about engineers from this information?

- A. Engineers like figuring out how things work, but they do not like solving problems.
- B. Engineers like figuring out how things work and solving problems.
- C. Engineers like solving problems, but they do not like figuring out how things work.

4. Read this paragraph from the article.

"Engineers start by identifying a problem to solve or a new product to design. They search for ways to fix the problem or make the product. They look at different ideas and choose the best one."

What can be concluded from this information about the number of solutions there are to a problem?

- A. There is only one solution to every problem.
- B. Some problems do not have any solutions.
- C. There may be more than one solution to a problem.

5. What is the main idea of this article?

- A. Engineers help other people by solving problems and designing new products.
- B. Sandra Cruz-Pol is an engineer who designs products that let people know when storms and floods are coming.
- C. Some engineers help people by finding better ways to keep foods fresh and safe.

6. Read this paragraph from the article.

"Engineers work to find solutions to problems. They also design new products that help people."

Which word in the first sentence does "they" refer to?

- A. problems
- B. engineers
- C. solutions

7. Choose the answer that best completes this sentence.

Sandra Cruz-Pol is an engineer, _____ she works to find solutions to problems.

- A. so
- B. because
- C. but

8. What do some engineers work to make safer?

9. Describe the products that Sandra Cruz-Pol designs.

10. Engineers design new products that help people.

Explain how a product designed by an engineer might help people. Support your answer with evidence from the article.