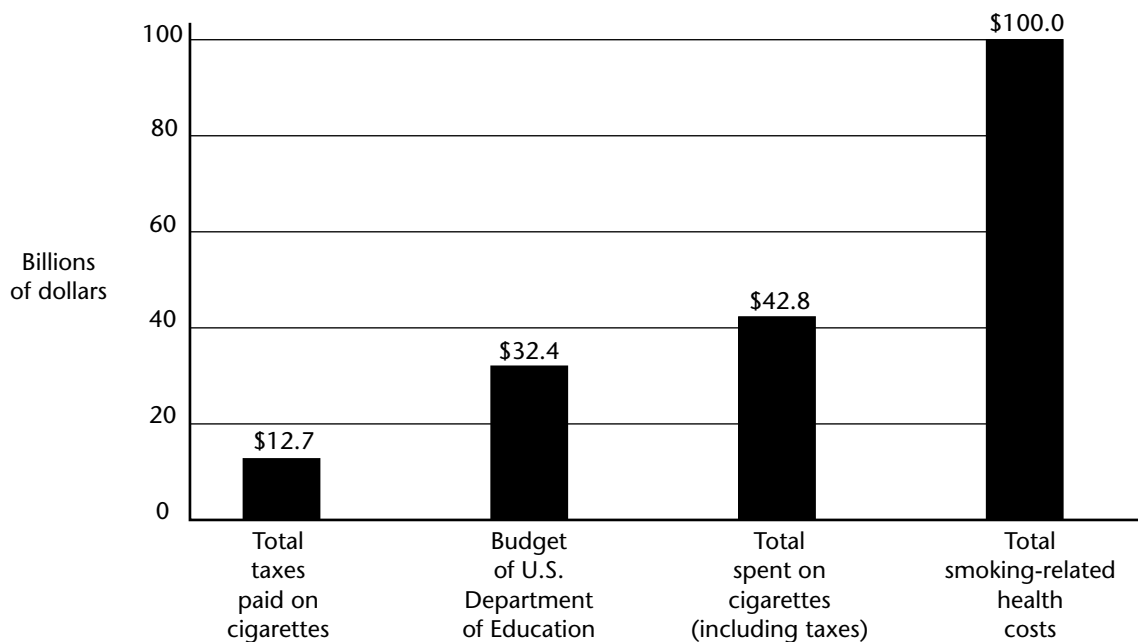


Respiration and Excretion ▪ *Enrich*

Analyzing Smoking Costs

Each year people in the United States spend billions of dollars on cigarettes. However, the cost of the cigarettes themselves is not the only price that smokers pay. Smoking can also result in huge medical costs. The bar graph below shows approximate smoking-related costs for 1995. For comparison, it also shows the budget for the United States government's Department of Education in 1995.

Each pack of cigarettes sold in the United States is taxed. These taxes are used to help run the national and state governments. Some of these taxes go toward government-sponsored health programs.



Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Compare the amount of smoking-related health costs and the amount spent on cigarettes.
2. Imagine that no one in the United States ever smoked cigarettes. How much money would have been saved in 1995?
3. Suppose that all of the taxes on cigarettes were used to pay for smoking-related health costs. How much more money would still have to be spent on health costs related to smoking?
4. What percentage of the total amount spent on cigarettes went toward taxes?
5. In 1995, did people in the United States spend more on cigarettes or on the federal government's Department of Education? Do you think that this is a good way for Americans to spend their money? Explain.