

Western European Environmental History

Environmental Science · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Which 1952 environmental disaster in London, caused by a temperature inversion trapping coal smoke, resulted in the estimated death of 12,000 people and catalyzed the Clean Air Act of 1956?

- A) The Great Smog**
- B) The Black Fog
- C) The London Haze
- D) The Thames Miasma

2. In 1974, which Western European nation became the first to legally mandate environmental impact assessments for major industrial projects?

- A) France**
- B) West Germany
- C) Sweden
- D) Netherlands

3. What was the primary chemical pollutant identified as the cause of 'Waldsterben' (forest dieback) that significantly damaged the Black Forest in West Germany during the 1980s?

- A) Sulfur dioxide**
- B) Methane
- C) Lead particles
- D) Chlorofluorocarbons

4. The 1986 Sandoz chemical spill, which devastated the biodiversity of the Rhine river, occurred in which country?

- A) Switzerland**
- B) Germany
- C) France
- D) Austria

5. Which landmark 1979 international agreement, signed in Geneva, was the first to address transboundary air pollution across Europe?

- A) CLRTAP**
- B) Kyoto Protocol
- C) Montreal Protocol
- D) Paris Agreement

6. The Seveso disaster of 1976, which released TCDD into the environment, led to the creation of which major European Union industrial safety directive?

- A) The Seveso Directive**
- B) The Chemical Safety Act
- C) The Industrial Emissions Directive
- D) The Basel Convention

7. What major European waterway was declared 'biologically dead' in the 1970s due to untreated industrial sewage before undergoing massive restoration?

- A) The Rhine**
- B) The Thames
- C) The Danube
- D) The Seine

8. In 1992, the OSPAR Convention was adopted to protect the marine environment of which specific body of water?

- A) Northeast Atlantic**
- B) Mediterranean Sea
- C) Baltic Sea
- D) North Sea

9. Which European city hosted the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, widely considered the first global environmental summit?

- A) Stockholm**
- B) Geneva
- C) London
- D) Paris

10. The 1982 'Donnerstag-Protest' in West Germany specifically targeted which environmental threat?

- A) Nuclear power expansion**
- B) Automotive emissions
- C) Deforestation
- D) Water pollution