

Historical Milestones in Environmental Science

Environmental Science · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. Which influential 1962 book is widely credited with sparking the modern environmental movement by detailing the harmful effects of pesticides like DDT?

- A) Silent Spring**
- B) The Lorax
- C) A Sand County Almanac
- D) Walden

2. The creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1970 was a direct response to growing public concern over:

- A) Air and water pollution**
- B) Deforestation
- C) Overfishing
- D) Acid rain

3. The Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, produced key agreements on sustainable development. Which of the following was a major outcome?

- A) The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development**
- B) The Kyoto Protocol
- C) The Montreal Protocol
- D) The Paris Agreement

4. The Cuyahoga River in Cleveland, Ohio, famously caught fire multiple times in the 20th century due to severe pollution. What year did the most publicized fire occur, drawing significant national attention?

- A) 1969**
- B) 1955
- C) 1978
- D) 1984

5. The discovery and understanding of the ozone hole over Antarctica in the 1980s led to international action. What substance was primarily identified as the culprit?

- A) Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)**
- B) Carbon dioxide (CO₂)
- C) Sulfur dioxide (SO₂)
- D) Methane (CH₄)

6. Which landmark piece of legislation in the United States, passed in 1970, regulates emissions from stationary and mobile sources and is administered by the EPA?

- A) Clean Air Act**
- B) Clean Water Act
- C) Endangered Species Act
- D) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

7. The Chernobyl nuclear disaster in 1986 had significant long-term environmental consequences. In which country did this event occur?

- A) Ukraine**
- B) Russia
- C) Belarus
- D) Kazakhstan

8. The publication of 'The Population Bomb' by Paul R. Ehrlich in 1968 warned about the potential for:

- A) Overpopulation leading to famine and resource depletion**
- B) Global warming caused by industrialization
- C) Mass extinctions due to habitat loss
- D) Nuclear war impacting the environment

9. The establishment of national parks as a concept for conservation is often attributed to the creation of which park in 1872?

- A) Yellowstone National Park**
- B) Yosemite National Park
- C) Grand Canyon National Park
- D) Zion National Park

10. The Montreal Protocol, signed in 1987, is an international treaty designed to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the production of substances responsible for ozone depletion. What are these substances commonly known as?

- A) Ozone-depleting substances (ODS)**
- B) Greenhouse gases
- C) Persistent organic pollutants (POPs)
- D) Heavy metals

11. The concept of 'Tragedy of the Commons,' popularized by Garrett Hardin in 1968, describes a situation where individuals acting in their own self-interest deplete a shared resource. What type of resource does this concept primarily address?

A) Commonly held resources (e.g., fisheries, atmosphere)

- B) Privately owned land
- C) Government-owned infrastructure
- D) Individual savings accounts

12. The first major international climate change conference leading to a legally binding agreement was the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC, which adopted which significant protocol in 1997?

A) Kyoto Protocol

- B) Paris Agreement
- C) Copenhagen Accord
- D) Montreal Protocol