

# Milestones in Environmental Science

Environmental Science · Practice Test · 20 Questions

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**1. Who is credited with coining the term 'ecology' in 1866?**

- A) Charles Darwin
- B) Ernst Haeckel
- C) Gregor Mendel
- D) Alexander von Humboldt

**2. Which 1962 book is widely credited with launching the modern environmental movement by documenting the adverse effects of indiscriminate pesticide use?**

- A) Silent Spring
- B) The Population Bomb
- C) A Sand County Almanac
- D) Our Common Future

**3. In 1970, which country became the first to establish a national Environmental Protection Agency?**

- A) Canada
- B) United Kingdom
- C) United States
- D) Australia

**4. What was the primary purpose of the 1987 Montreal Protocol?**

- A) To reduce global carbon emissions
- B) To protect the ozone layer
- C) To regulate international water rights
- D) To establish protected marine zones

**5. Which scientist is known for developing the 'Gaia hypothesis', which proposes that living organisms interact with their inorganic surroundings to form a synergistic self-regulating system?**

- A) James Lovelock
- B) Rachel Carson
- C) E.O. Wilson
- D) Jane Goodall

**6. The first successful large-scale industrial use of wind power for electricity occurred in which decade?**

- A) 1880s
- B) 1920s
- C) 1950s
- D) 1970s

**7. Which international summit in 1992 resulted in the adoption of Agenda 21, a comprehensive plan of action for sustainable development?**

- A) Kyoto Protocol
- B) Paris Agreement
- C) Earth Summit in Rio
- D) Stockholm Conference

**8. What did Charles Keeling first demonstrate through his measurements at the Mauna Loa Observatory beginning in 1958?**

- A) The rise in atmospheric carbon dioxide levels
- B) The thinning of the ozone layer
- C) The increase in global rainfall
- D) The decline in ocean pH

**9. The first practical solar cell capable of powering an electrical device was invented in 1954 at which laboratory?**

- A) Los Alamos National Laboratory
- B) Bell Labs
- C) CERN
- D) NASA

**10. Svante Arrhenius made a landmark discovery in 1896 regarding which environmental process?**

- A) The greenhouse effect
- B) Acid rain formation
- C) Eutrophication
- D) Biodiversity loss

**11. Which international agreement, signed in 1997, was the first to mandate legally binding emission reduction targets for developed nations?**

- A) Paris Agreement
- B) Kyoto Protocol
- C) Copenhagen Accord
- D) Bonn Convention

**12. What environmental problem did the 1979 'discovery' of the ozone hole over Antarctica reveal?**

- A) Ocean plastic accumulation
- B) Severe stratospheric ozone depletion
- C) Increased methane release from permafrost
- D) Rapid desertification

**13. Who published 'Man and Nature' in 1864, one of the first books to argue that human activity causes environmental change?**

- A) George Perkins Marsh
- B) Henry David Thoreau
- C) John Muir
- D) Aldo Leopold

**14. What was the significance of the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm?**

- A) It was the first global conference to make the environment a major issue
- B) It established the first carbon tax
- C) It banned whaling worldwide
- D) It created the first global seed bank

**15. The 'Great Smog of London' in 1952 led to the passage of which landmark environmental legislation in 1956?**

- A) The Clean Air Act
- B) The Water Quality Act
- C) The Environmental Protection Act
- D) The Toxic Substances Control Act

**16. Which scientist is credited with discovering the link between chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and ozone layer depletion?**

- A) Mario Molina and F. Sherwood Rowland
- B) Carl Sagan
- C) Neil deGrasse Tyson
- D) Stephen Hawking

**17. What was the main outcome of the 1973 CITES agreement?**

- A) Regulation of international trade in endangered species
- B) Establishment of international fishing quotas
- C) Global ban on chemical weapons
- D) Creation of the first global park system

**18. In 1913, the first modern national park service was created. Which country established it?**

- A) United States
- B) New Zealand
- C) South Africa
- D) Norway

**19. Which invention in the 1970s allowed for the mass monitoring of deforestation from space?**

- A) Landsat satellite program
- B) Global Positioning System
- C) Weather radar
- D) Sonar mapping

**20. What did the 1963 Clean Air Act in the United States first authorize the government to do?**

- A) Provide grants for air pollution control research
- B) Ban all coal-fired power plants
- C) Tax carbon emissions
- D) Regulate household car exhaust