

Pollution Science Facts

Pollution Science · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. In what year did the United States Congress pass the Clean Air Act, which established federal and state regulations to limit emissions?

- A) 1963
- B) 1970**
- C) 1985
- D) 1990

2. The Minamata disease, caused by mercury poisoning, was first officially discovered in which country in 1956?

- A) Japan**
- B) China
- C) Brazil
- D) Canada

3. Approximately what percentage of the Earth's atmosphere is composed of nitrogen?

- A) 21%
- B) 50%
- C) 78%**
- D) 99%

4. The Montreal Protocol, an international treaty designed to protect the ozone layer, was signed in which year?

- A) 1975
- B) 1987**
- C) 1995
- D) 2001

5. What is the chemical formula for carbon dioxide, a primary greenhouse gas associated with climate change?

- A) CO
- B) CO₂**
- C) C₂O
- D) CH₄

6. The Great Smog of London, which led to the Clean Air Act of 1956 in the UK, occurred in what year?

- A) 1942
- B) 1948
- C) 1952**
- D) 1960

7. How many primary pollutants are currently tracked by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards?

- A) 4
- B) 6**
- C) 10
- D) 12

8. In 1986, which nuclear power plant in the Soviet Union experienced the world's worst nuclear disaster?

- A) Fukushima
- B) Three Mile Island
- C) Chernobyl**
- D) Mayak

9. What is the pH value of neutral water, which is often used as a baseline when measuring the acidity of acid rain?

- A) 2.0
- B) 5.0
- C) 7.0**
- D) 9.0

10. The Exxon Valdez oil spill, which released approximately 11 million gallons of crude oil into the ocean, occurred in what year?

- A) 1982
- B) 1989**
- C) 1994
- D) 1999

11. Which international summit held in 1992 is famously known as the 'Earth Summit'?

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

12. What is the atomic number of lead, a heavy metal that causes significant pollution and health risks?

- A) 8
- B) 47
- C) 82**
- D) 92

13. The Love Canal disaster, which highlighted the dangers of toxic waste dumping, led to the creation of which US legislation in 1980?

- A) Clean Water Act
- B) Superfund Act**
- C) Endangered Species Act
- D) Safe Drinking Water Act

14. In what year did the Kyoto Protocol, which set internationally binding emission reduction targets, enter into force?

- A) 1997
- B) 2000
- C) 2005**
- D) 2010

15. What is the minimum concentration of dissolved oxygen in water, measured in milligrams per liter, usually required to sustain most aquatic life?

- A) 1 mg/L
- B) 5 mg/L**
- C) 10 mg/L
- D) 20 mg/L

16. Which gas, commonly released by landfills, is roughly 25 to 28 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide over a 100-year period?

- A) Methane**
- B) Nitrogen
- C) Argon
- D) Oxygen

17. The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) was adopted in what year to protect human health and the environment?

- A) 1995
- B) 2001**
- C) 2008
- D) 2015

18. How many continents are affected by the accumulation of microplastics in the oceans according to global marine science research?

- A) 3
- B) 5
- C) 7

D) All of them

19. The first Earth Day, which mobilized millions of Americans to support environmental protection, was held on April 22 of which year?

- A) 1965
- B) 1970**
- C) 1975
- D) 1980

20. What is the chemical symbol for the heavy metal mercury?

- A) Me
- B) Hg**
- C) Pb
- D) Au