

Public Health and the Natural World

Public Health · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. Which common insect, when it bites humans, can transmit diseases like West Nile virus and Zika virus?

- A) Ladybug
- B) Mosquito**
- C) Butterfly
- D) Dragonfly

2. What is the primary natural source of the vitamin D that humans can synthesize when exposed to sunlight?

- A) Rain
- B) Soil
- C) Sunlight**
- D) Wind

3. Which aquatic environment is crucial for the breeding and life cycle of many mosquito species, posing a public health concern?

- A) Oceans
- B) Glaciers
- C) Standing water**
- D) Deserts

4. The presence of clean, accessible natural spaces like parks and forests is linked to what positive public health outcome?

- A) Increased air pollution
- B) Reduced physical activity
- C) Improved mental well-being**
- D) Higher rates of obesity

5. What natural process, essential for life on Earth, helps to regulate global temperatures and influences weather patterns that can affect public health?

- A) Volcanic eruptions
- B) Tectonic plate movement
- C) The water cycle**
- D) Earthquakes

6. Which type of animal can be a vector for zoonotic diseases, such as rabies or Lyme disease, when interacting with humans or their pets?

- A) Fish
- B) Birds
- C) Mammals**
- D) Insects

7. The quality of drinking water is directly influenced by the health of what natural ecosystem?

- A) Volcanic vents
- B) Rivers and watersheds**
- C) Geysers
- D) Tornado alleys

8. Exposure to certain plants can cause allergic reactions and skin irritations, impacting public health. What is a common example of such a plant?

- A) Sunflower
- B) Oak tree
- C) Poison ivy**
- D) Fern

9. What essential natural resource, when contaminated, can lead to widespread waterborne diseases like cholera or typhoid fever?

- A) Air
- B) Soil
- C) Water**
- D) Rock

10. The biodiversity of an ecosystem, including the variety of plants and animals, plays a role in public health by:

- A) Increasing the spread of rare diseases
- B) Regulating disease vectors and providing resources**
- C) Causing more natural disasters
- D) Reducing the availability of clean air

11. Which atmospheric phenomenon, a natural part of Earth's processes, can negatively impact respiratory health when at high concentrations?

- A) Oxygen
- B) Nitrogen
- C) Ozone
- D) Pollution**

12. The decomposition of organic matter by microorganisms in soil is a natural process that contributes to:

A) Increased soil erosion

B) Nutrient cycling and soil fertility

C) Decreased plant growth

D) Water scarcity