

Early Milestones in Understanding Forests

Deforestation & Reforestation · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Which ancient civilization is credited with one of the earliest recorded instances of widespread deforestation for fuel and construction, notably around the Mediterranean?

A) The Roman Empire

- B) The ancient Egyptians
- C) The Mayan civilization
- D) The Indus Valley Civilization

2. What was one of the earliest recognized scientific links between deforestation and soil erosion, observed and documented by thinkers like Plato in ancient Greece?

A) The loss of fertile topsoil leading to barren land

- B) Increased frequency of local rainfall
- C) The cooling of regional temperatures
- D) The proliferation of beneficial insects

3. Who is often cited as one of the first influential figures to advocate for forest preservation and controlled harvesting, laying groundwork for early forestry practices in the 17th century?

A) Jean-Baptiste Colbert

- B) Isaac Newton
- C) Galileo Galilei
- D) Leonardo da Vinci

4. What early scientific concept, developed in the 18th century, helped explain the role of forests in regulating water cycles and preventing floods, contributing to the understanding of their ecological importance?

A) The hydrological cycle

- B) The theory of evolution
- C) The law of conservation of mass
- D) The principles of thermodynamics

5. In the late 19th century, which pioneering conservationist played a key role in the establishment of the first national parks in the United States, a significant step in preserving forested areas?

A) John Muir

- B) Theodore Roosevelt
- C) Gifford Pinchot
- D) Rachel Carson

6. The establishment of the first formal forestry schools in the mid-19th century, such as the one founded in Tharandt, Germany, marked a significant development in:

A) The scientific management of forests

- B) The widespread use of chain saws
- C) The discovery of new timber species
- D) The mechanization of logging

7. What key invention in the late 19th century, the chainsaw, dramatically impacted logging efficiency and the pace of deforestation, though its widespread adoption came later?

A) The power-driven chainsaw

- B) The steam-powered saw
- C) The crosscut saw
- D) The axe

8. Which early environmental movement, gaining momentum in the early 20th century, focused on the idea of 'wise use' of natural resources, including forests, and was influential in shaping forestry policy?

A) The Conservation movement

- B) The Preservation movement
- C) The Green Revolution
- D) The Anti-pollution movement

9. The concept of 'taungya,' a system where agricultural crops are grown between rows of newly planted forest trees, originated in which region and was an early form of agroforestry?

A) Burma (now Myanmar)

- B) Brazil
- C) Canada
- D) Sweden

10. What significant technological advancement in the mid-20th century revolutionized our ability to monitor large-scale deforestation from above, leading to more comprehensive data collection?

A) Satellite imagery

- B) Aerial photography
- C) Ground-penetrating radar
- D) Seismic surveys