

# Environmental Science History

Environmental Science · Answer Key · 15 Questions

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**1. Which 1952 environmental disaster led directly to the UK's Clean Air Act of 1956?**

**A) The Great Smog of London**

B) The Windscale Fire

C) The Flixborough disaster

D) The Aberfan disaster

**2. In 1974, Mario Molina and F. Sherwood Rowland published a paper identifying which chemical compounds as the primary cause of ozone depletion?**

A) Sulfur hexafluoride

**B) Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)**

C) Nitrous oxide

D) Polychlorinated biphenyls

**3. The 'Keeling Curve,' which provides ongoing evidence of rising atmospheric CO2 concentrations, began recording data at which location in 1958?**

A) South Pole Station

**B) Mauna Loa Observatory**

C) Cape Grim Baseline Air Pollution Station

D) Barrow Atmospheric Baseline Observatory

**4. Which 1972 report commissioned by the Club of Rome used computer modeling to predict the consequences of unchecked economic and population growth on planetary resources?**

A) The Brundtland Report

**B) The Limits to Growth**

C) The Stern Review

D) The Ehrlich Report

**5. What was the primary environmental objective of the 1987 Montreal Protocol?**

A) Reducing greenhouse gas emissions

B) Banning the use of DDT

**C) Phasing out ozone-depleting substances**

D) Establishing marine protected areas

**6. The 1984 Bhopal disaster involved the accidental release of which toxic gas from a pesticide plant?**

**A) Methyl isocyanate**

B) Phosgene

C) Hydrogen cyanide

D) Chlorine gas

**7. Who is credited with sparking the modern environmental movement in the United States with the 1962 publication of 'Silent Spring'?**

A) Aldo Leopold

B) John Muir

**C) Rachel Carson**

D) Garrett Hardin

**8. The 1979 Three Mile Island accident, the most significant nuclear incident in U.S. commercial history, occurred in which state?**

A) New York

**B) Pennsylvania**

C) Ohio

D) New Jersey

**9. What was the first international treaty to set legally binding emissions reduction targets for developed countries to combat global warming?**

**A) Kyoto Protocol**

B) Paris Agreement

C) Copenhagen Accord

D) Rio Earth Summit

**10. Minamata disease, recognized in the 1950s, was caused by the industrial discharge of which substance into the sea?**

A) Cadmium

B) Lead

**C) Methylmercury**

D) Arsenic

**11. The 'Great Acceleration,' a term describing the surge in human impact on the Earth system, is widely cited by scientists as beginning around which decade?**

A) 1920s

**B) 1950s**

C) 1970s

D) 1990s

**12. The 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill was a catalyst for which major piece of U.S. legislation?**

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

**13. Which 19th-century scientist was the first to calculate that human-induced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions could lead to global warming?**

- A) John Tyndall
- B) Svante Arrhenius**
- C) Guy Stewart Callendar
- D) Charles David Keeling

**14. The Love Canal disaster, which led to the creation of the Superfund program in the U.S., involved chemical waste buried under what?**

- A) A school and residential neighborhood**
- B) A major metropolitan water reservoir
- C) An industrial manufacturing zone
- D) A national park wilderness area

**15. The 1977 treaty known as the ENMOD Convention prohibits which of the following?**

- A) Deep sea mining
- B) Nuclear waste dumping at sea
- C) Military use of environmental modification techniques**
- D) Transboundary air pollution