

Environmental and Animal Philosophy Facts

Philosophy · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. Which ancient Greek philosopher proposed that animals lack reason and therefore exist purely for the benefit of humans?

- A) Aristotle**
- B) Socrates
- C) Plato
- D) Heraclitus

2. In the 18th century, which philosopher argued that humans have 'indirect duties' toward animals, suggesting we should not be cruel to them only to avoid cultivating a cruel character?

- A) Immanuel Kant**
- B) David Hume
- C) John Locke
- D) Thomas Hobbes

3. Which 20th-century philosopher coined the term 'speciesism' to describe the discrimination against beings based on their species membership?

- A) Peter Singer**
- B) Tom Regan
- C) Albert Schweitzer
- D) Aldo Leopold

4. Aldo Leopold is famous for developing which ethical framework that expands the definition of 'community' to include soils, waters, plants, and animals?

- A) The Land Ethic**
- B) Deep Ecology
- C) Biocentrism
- D) Social Ecology

5. Which philosopher is the primary proponent of 'Deep Ecology', which advocates for the intrinsic value of all living beings regardless of their utility to humans?

- A) Arne Naess**
- B) Murray Bookchin
- C) Hans Jonas
- D) Martin Heidegger

6. The concept of 'biocentrism' primarily argues that:

- A) All living things have inherent value**
- B) Humans are the center of the universe
- C) Only conscious beings have rights
- D) Nature exists only as a resource

7. Jeremy Bentham, a utilitarian philosopher, famously argued that the moral status of animals should be based on which capacity?

- A) The ability to suffer**
- B) The ability to speak
- C) The possession of a soul
- D) The capacity for complex logic

8. Which philosopher authored the 1975 book 'Animal Liberation', often cited as the catalyst for the modern animal rights movement?

- A) Peter Singer**
- B) Tom Regan
- C) Gary Francione
- D) Carol J. Adams

9. What does the 'Precautionary Principle' in environmental philosophy suggest when scientific evidence is uncertain regarding potential environmental harm?

- A) Take protective action to prevent harm**
- B) Proceed with development until proven harmful
- C) Wait for absolute certainty before acting
- D) Prioritize economic growth over nature

10. Which 17th-century philosopher famously viewed non-human animals as 'automata' or machines lacking minds or feelings?

- A) René Descartes**
- B) Baruch Spinoza
- C) Gottfried Leibniz
- D) Blaise Pascal

11. The 'Gaia Hypothesis', while scientific in origin, was adopted by environmental philosophers to describe the Earth as:

- A) A self-regulating complex system**
- B) A dead rock with no internal processes
- C) A resource meant for human exploitation
- D) A divine entity created for mankind

12. Which philosopher proposed the 'Ethics of Care' as a framework to address environmental issues through relational responsibilities rather than abstract rights?

A) Val Plumwood

- B) Julian Simon
- C) Bjorn Lomborg
- D) Nick Bostrom

13. In environmental philosophy, 'Anthropocentrism' refers to a worldview that:

A) Places humans at the center of moral concern

- B) Values all life equally
- C) Prioritizes ecosystem health over individuals
- D) Focuses exclusively on animal sentience

14. Which philosopher argued in 'The Case for Animal Rights' (1983) that animals are 'subjects-of-a-life' and possess inherent value?

A) Tom Regan

- B) Peter Singer
- C) Richard Ryder
- D) John Baird Callicott

15. What is the central focus of 'Ecofeminism'?

A) The intersection of the oppression of women and the exploitation of nature

- B) The role of women in environmental policy
- C) The superiority of women in ecological science
- D) The biological differences between men and women

16. Which concept in environmental philosophy refers to the obligation current generations have to ensure the environment remains habitable for future humans?

A) Intergenerational justice

- B) Sustainable development
- C) Short-termism
- D) Global warming mitigation

17. Albert Schweitzer's philosophy of 'Reverence for Life' asserts that:

A) All life is sacred and worthy of preservation

- B) Only mammals have moral status
- C) Nature should be controlled by science
- D) Human life is strictly superior to all other life

18. What is the primary argument of 'Social Ecology', developed by Murray Bookchin?

A) Environmental problems originate from human social hierarchies

- B) Nature is inherently chaotic
- C) Technological solutions solve all ecological problems
- D) Only governments can manage the environment

19. Which philosopher challenged the idea that 'wilderness' is a pristine, untouched concept, arguing it is often a human construct?

A) William Cronon

- B) Henry David Thoreau
- C) Ralph Waldo Emerson
- D) John Muir

20. The 'Great Chain of Being' is a historical philosophical concept that:

A) Ranks all life forms in a hierarchical structure

- B) Argues for the equality of all living things
- C) Claims animals are more important than plants
- D) Suggests humans were evolved from animals