

Historical Milestones in Ecology

Ecology · Practice Test · 20 Questions

1. Who coined the term 'oecology' (ecology) in 1866 to describe the study of the relationship between organisms and their environment?

- A) Charles Darwin
- B) Ernst Haeckel
- C) Alexander von Humboldt
- D) Alfred Russel Wallace

2. In which year was the first Earth Day held, marking the beginning of the modern environmental movement in the United States?

- A) 1960
- B) 1970
- C) 1980
- D) 1990

3. The book 'Silent Spring', which documented the environmental harm caused by pesticides like DDT, was published by Rachel Carson in what year?

- A) 1952
- B) 1962
- C) 1972
- D) 1982

4. What ecological concept did Arthur Tansley introduce in 1935 to describe the complex of organisms and their physical environment as a functional unit?

- A) Biosphere
- B) Niche
- C) Ecosystem
- D) Trophic cascade

5. Which international agreement, signed in 1987, was designed to phase out the production of substances responsible for ozone depletion?

- A) Kyoto Protocol
- B) Montreal Protocol
- C) Paris Agreement
- D) Basel Convention

6. The term 'biosphere' was popularized by which scientist in his 1926 book of the same name?

- A) Vladimir Vernadsky
- B) Gregor Mendel
- C) James Lovelock
- D) Barry Commoner

7. Which scientist is famously known for formulating the 'Gaia hypothesis', which proposes that living organisms interact with their inorganic surroundings to form a synergistic, self-regulating system?

- A) Richard Dawkins
- B) James Lovelock
- C) E.O. Wilson
- D) Jane Goodall

8. What was the primary focus of the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm?

- A) Climate change
- B) Global deforestation
- C) International environmental policy
- D) Ocean acidification

9. The concept of the 'trophic cascade' was significantly advanced by the reintroduction of wolves into which US National Park in 1995?

- A) Yosemite
- B) Yellowstone
- C) Everglades
- D) Grand Canyon

10. Which scientist conducted long-term research on the finches of the Galápagos Islands to demonstrate natural selection in action?

- A) Peter and Rosemary Grant
- B) Thomas Malthus
- C) Carl Linnaeus
- D) Gregor Mendel

11. The 'Keeling Curve', which records the increase of atmospheric carbon dioxide, began measurements at Mauna Loa Observatory in what year?

- A) 1948
- B) 1958
- C) 1968
- D) 1978

12. In 1968, Paul R. Ehrlich published a influential book warning about the impacts of rapid population growth; what was its title?

- A) The Limits to Growth
- B) The Population Bomb
- C) Silent Spring
- D) Small is Beautiful

13. What landmark 1973 US legislation was passed to protect species at risk of extinction due to economic growth and development?

- A) National Environmental Policy Act
- B) Endangered Species Act
- C) Clean Air Act
- D) Clean Water Act

14. Alexander von Humboldt is credited with being the first to describe which concept, mapping the relationship between climate and plant distribution?

- A) Ecological succession
- B) Biogeography
- C) Natural selection
- D) Genetic drift

15. The 'Great Smog of London' in 1952, which led to significant public health reforms, was primarily caused by the burning of what material?

- A) Diesel fuel
- B) Coal
- C) Wood
- D) Refuse

16. Which term did E.O. Wilson popularize in his 1984 book to describe the innate tendency of humans to seek connections with nature?

- A) Biophilia
- B) Anthropocentrism
- C) Symbiosis
- D) Biomimicry

17. The Chernobyl disaster, which had significant ecological consequences due to radioactive fallout, occurred in what year?

- A) 1976
- B) 1986
- C) 1996
- D) 2006

18. What major ecological phenomenon did the 'dust bowl' of the 1930s demonstrate regarding human impact on prairie ecosystems?

- A) Deforestation
- B) Soil erosion
- C) Ocean pollution
- D) Invasive species

19. The 'IPCC' was established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization and which other organization?

- A) UNESCO
- B) UNEP
- C) WHO
- D) FAO

20. Which scientist is often cited for the 1960s study that introduced the concept of 'keystone species' after experimenting with starfish?

- A) Robert Paine
- B) G. Evelyn Hutchinson
- C) Raymond Lindeman
- D) Odum Brothers