

20th Century Cultural Studies: Nature and Environment

Cultural Studies · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. Which influential 20th-century environmental movement, advocating for the preservation of wilderness, often cited the intrinsic value of nature, impacting cultural perceptions of the natural world?

- A) The Back-to-the-Land movement
- B) The Gaia Hypothesis
- C) Deep Ecology**
- D) The Sustainable Development movement

2. Rachel Carson's seminal 1962 book, 'Silent Spring,' significantly influenced 20th-century environmental consciousness by detailing the harmful effects of which agricultural practice on ecosystems and wildlife?

- A) Deforestation
- B) Industrial farming
- C) Pesticide use**
- D) Monoculture

3. The concept of the 'Anthropocene,' referring to a geological epoch where human activity is the dominant influence on climate and the environment, gained significant traction in cultural studies and scientific discourse in which part of the 20th century?

- A) Early 20th century (1900-1920)
- B) Mid-20th century (1940-1960)
- C) Late 20th century (1980-2000)**
- D) Throughout the entire 20th century

4. In the mid-20th century, documentaries like 'The Living Planet' by David Attenborough played a crucial role in shaping public understanding and appreciation of which aspect of the natural world?

- A) Urban planning and design
- B) Animal behavior and biodiversity**
- C) Industrial pollution
- D) Human migration patterns

5. The rise of ecofeminism in the latter half of the 20th century explored the interconnectedness between the domination of women and the exploitation of nature, drawing parallels between which two entities?

- A) Technology and industry
- B) Capitalism and colonialism
- C) The female body and the Earth**
- D) Labor and consumption

6. The cultural impact of the Chernobyl disaster in 1986 contributed to a heightened awareness of the potential environmental and ecological consequences of which type of energy production?

- A) Solar power
- B) Wind power
- C) Nuclear power**
- D) Hydroelectric power

7. The 'Green Revolution' in agriculture, which began in the mid-20th century, while increasing food production, also raised cultural and environmental questions about the impact of which aspect on biodiversity?

- A) Organic farming methods
- B) Traditional seed varieties
- C) Genetically modified crops**
- D) Small-scale farming

8. Which 20th-century artistic movement, often characterized by its focus on abstract forms and subjective experience, sometimes incorporated natural elements or evoked a sense of the organic and elemental?

- A) Cubism
- B) Surrealism
- C) Abstract Expressionism**
- D) Pop Art

9. The development of photography and film in the 20th century significantly influenced how cultures perceived and interacted with natural landscapes, often leading to the romanticization of which environmental feature?

- A) Industrial zones
- B) Urban sprawl
- C) Wilderness areas**
- D) Agricultural fields

10. The environmental activism spurred by the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989 brought increased cultural attention to the vulnerability of marine life and coastal ecosystems to what specific type of industrial accident?

- A) Forest fires
- B) Air pollution
- C) Oil spills**
- D) Nuclear meltdowns

11. The growing concern over deforestation in the Amazon basin during the late 20th century highlighted cultural debates about the economic value of rainforests versus their importance for global climate regulation and what else?

- A) Urban development
- B) Industrial resource extraction
- C) Biodiversity and indigenous cultures**
- D) Tourism infrastructure

12. In the 20th century, the rise of the 'nature writing' genre, exemplified by authors like Aldo Leopold, emphasized a more direct and reflective engagement with the natural world, fostering a cultural appreciation for what?

- A) Technological advancement
- B) Human dominance over nature
- C) Ecological interconnectedness and stewardship**
- D) Urban lifestyles