

Environmental Literacy Test

Test Your Knowledge:



1. Which of the following household wastes is considered a hazardous waste?

- a) plastic packaging
- b) glass
- c) batteries
- d) spoiled food
- e) don't know

2. Where does most of the garbage in the U.S. end up? In...

- a) oceans
- b) incinerators
- c) recycling centers
- d) landfills
- e) don't know

3. What is the most common reason animal species become extinct?

- a) pollution
- b) hunting
- c) habitats are being destroyed by humans
- d) global warming
- e) don't know

4. Carbon monoxide is a major contributor to air pollution in the U.S. Which of the following is the biggest source of carbon monoxide in the United States?

- a) factory emissions and discharges
- b) motor vehicles
- c) household chimneys
- d) landfills
- e) don't know

5. Zoning decisions that effect land use and development are usually made by which body?

- a) the U.S. Congress
- b) the U.S. Supreme Court
- c) State legislatures
- d) Local municipalities
- e) don't know

6. Name the government agency that directly oversees and manages America's National Forests.

- a) The USDA Forest Service
- b) The National Park Service
- c) The Environmental Protection Agency
- d) The Bureau of Land Management
- e) don't know

7. The adaptation where certain insects develop or "take-on" the coloration of other bad tasting insects in order to avoid predation is called _____.

- a) camouflage
- b) mimicry
- c) cryptic coloration
- d) blending
- e) don't know

8. Approximately what percentage of the Earth's water is available as fresh drinking water?

- a) 90%
- b) 45%
- c) 20%
- d) less than 3%
- e) don't know

9. Which scientist is credited with raising public awareness about the environmental risks of pesticide use with the 1962 book Silent Spring?

- a) Aldo Leopold
- b) Albert Einstein
- c) Rachael Carson
- d) Barry Commoner
- e) don't know

10. Wetland plants are capable of filtering some of the pollution generated from surface water run-off. Consequently, wetlands have a similar role in ecosystems that what organ performs for the human body?

- a) heart
- b) liver
- c) lungs
- d) kidneys
- e) don't know

Answers to Environmental IQ Quiz!

The correct answers are highlighted below.

Grading Key (1 point/question)

10 pts. Your blood runs green

8-9 pts. Good steward

6-7 pts. Young sapling

4-5 pts. In the landfill

0-3 pts. You really need to get out more

Note: Some of the items on this test were adapted from the Roper/Starch National Survey.

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