

Extra Credit Reading
SILENT SPRING

Name: _____

1. Why does the author feel that insecticides should be called biocides?
2. How did World War II contribute to the growth of insecticides?
3. How do chemists produce the cleaning fluid carbon tetrachloride from methane?
4. For what purpose was DDT originally used?
5. What effect do organic phosphorus insecticides have on living organisms?
6. What results when pairs of organic phosphate insecticides are combined?
7. What are systemic insecticides?
8. Identify three ways that earthworms benefit soil.
9. How do insecticides disturb the balance of populations residing in the soil?
10. Can an insecticide that is sprayed on an organism affect the future generations of that organism? Explain how.
11. How can spraying a forest with an insecticide affect fish residing in a forest stream?
12. What type of food products generally contain the heaviest residues of chlorinated hydrocarbons? Explain why.
13. Identify two methods of preventing the contamination of public food supplies that are recommended by the author.
14. What are carcinogens? Give an example of one.
15. What does the title *Silent Spring* represent?
16. According to Carson, what relationship exists between the physical properties of carbon and the great diversity of life?
17. Does Carson feel that humans should ever interfere with the relationships that exist among Earth's vegetation? Explain your answer.

18. How can the use of DDT actually boost an insect population?
19. Describe Warburg's theory of the relationship between cancer cells and fermentation.
20. According to the author, what two important facts have been overlooked in the design of insect control programs?
21. Does Carson feel that humans can "control nature?" Explain why.
22. Explain how the spraying for Dutch elm disease eventually yielded evidence that the chain of poisoning grows as it progresses through a food chain.
23. Did you like this book? Why or why not?
24. What did you learn about the scientific process by reading this book?