

Extra Credit Reading
THE WORLD WITHOUT US

Name: _____

1. What organisms are missing from managed forests?
2. How long does it take for forests to take over farmland, and what trees are the first to return?
3. How does the environment affect how long a house lasts?
4. Are non-native species superior to native species? Explain.
5. Where were carbon dioxide levels prior to the industrial era, and how many years will it take the levels to return to that if humans disappeared?
6. Why are taking pollen layer samples from 10 million year old Lake Tanganyika helpful to scientists?
7. What is Paul Martin's theory?
8. What change 13,000 years ago led to the eventual extinction of most of North America's megafauna?
9. Why have megafauna in Africa been able to survive even though there is a human presence there?
10. What is causing the break in the balance between humans and wildlife in Africa?
11. What is an example of two species that work together to create a good environment?
12. Why are plastic polymers so abundant in the ocean, and why are they a problem?
13. How did the Chinese tallow tree adapt to the American south?

14. What percent of the world's land surface is dedicated to human food production?
15. What were the downsides of early fertilizers?
16. What are the pros and cons of genetically engineered crops?
17. How is the earth constantly trying to take back the Panama Canal, and what is done to stop this?
18. How are humans altering the feeding habits of red-crowned cranes?
19. What species use the DMZ as a wildlife refuge?
20. What would happen to domesticated species after humans are gone?
21. How many birds die each year in the U.S. from running into television towers each year?
22. Why will cats be successful survivors after humans are gone?
23. Why will some small Amazonian birds die out even if humans disappear?
24. What are CFCs, and why are they bad?
25. What was the Zone of Alienation at Chernobyl?
26. How did UV light help form life, and how did it form the ozone layer?
27. Why is it important that tundra areas keep their permafrost?

28. What is the effect of mining on water ways and concentrations?
29. What is the reason that Mayan farmers let trees intermingle with their crops?
30. How much life was wiped out by the Permian Extinction?
31. What two organisms cannot live without humans? Why?
32. Why wouldn't a virus like Ebola or Marburg wipe out humanity?
33. How does our body break itself down after death?
34. What are the three noble metals, and why are they valuable?
35. How much of the energy consumed in a meal is converted to body mass?
36. How did the 1998 El Nino affect coral reefs?
37. Why do some scientists want to put elephants in America?
38. Did you like this book? Why or why not?
39. What did you learn about the scientific process by reading this book?