

EQ #3- What is the history of
Environmental Laws in the US?

WEDNESDAY

- EQ #3- History of Environmental Laws in the US (Notes)
- TIMELINE ACTIVITY (Graded)
- **THURSDAY- UNIT 1 STUDY GUIDE & INVASIVE SPECIES POSTERS (Work Time)**
- **FRIDAY- UNIT 1 TEST & INVASIVE SPECIES GALLERY WALK**

EQ #3- What is the history of env laws?

- The US hasn't always had rigorous environmental laws in place.
- Many existing environmental laws were weak and poorly enforced.



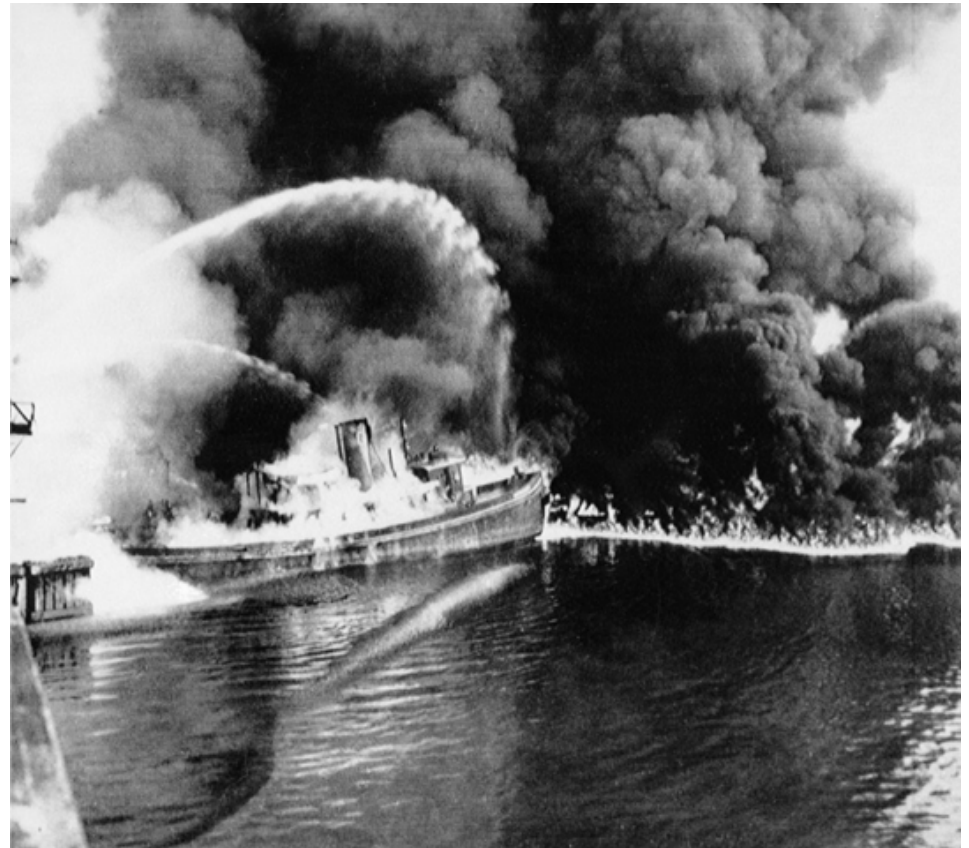
When did the Environmental Movement Take Place?

- In the 1960's and 1970's
- Protests and laws marked the modern Environmental Movement
- Most of the present-day major environmental laws passed now.



Why did the us pass environmental laws?

- As the US grew more industrialized, people experienced more pollution.
- Rivers in the 1930s-1960s periodically caught on fire due to pollution from oil and other flammable chemicals.

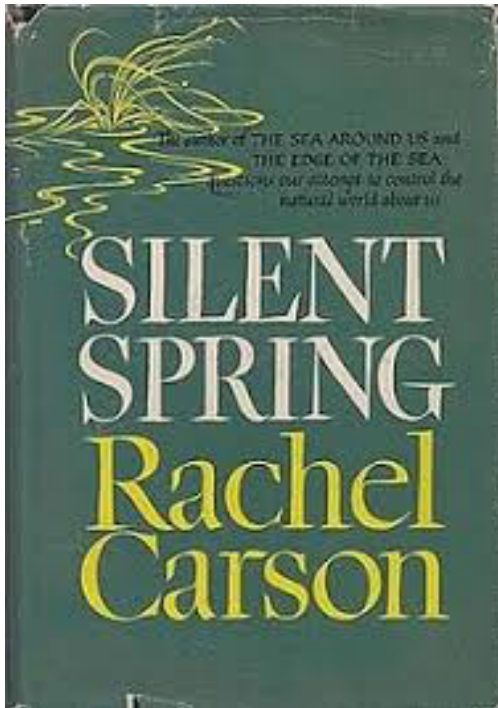


A Brief History of Environmentalism in the US

- **1960's** - The movement is born; science begins to show that pollution and chemicals damage the earth.



A Brief History of Environmentalism in the US



- Silent Spring was written by Rachel Carson; sounds the alarm on the effect of pesticides on ecosystems;
- Everyday people take an interest in ecology—how the earth's systems work.

What is the EPA?

- The **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** was created on December 2, 1970.
- **Why?**
- **Read the article and underline answers to the questions below as you read.**
- 1. Why did the environmental movement begin in the US in the 1960's? Cite **THREE** reasons/data.
- 2. What happened in the 1970's to spark Nixon's support of environmental policies?
- 3. What is the EPA and why was it created?

The Environmental movement-1970's

- **1970's-** Most of the MAJOR environmental laws are passed and signed
 - **The Endangered Species Act**
 - The Clean Air & Clean Water Acts**
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was created to enforce all Environmental Laws;
- It is a FEDERAL agency.

What is the History of Environmentalism?

- **1980's-**
- Backlash occurs; Reagan administration is pro business and development;
- Laws pass that remove environmental restrictions on businesses;
- Rules soften;
- Previous gains of the environmental movement are severely damaged

What is the History of Environmentalism?

- 1990's- Holding the line;
- Environmentalists work to keep earlier laws from being weakened or eliminated

What is the History of the Environmental Movement?

- **2000-2010-** P Bush & US opt out of Kyoto Climate Protocol; won't agree to limit emissions.
- Al Gore's movie about climate change *Inconvenient Truth*

What is the History of the Environmental Movement?

- **2010-2019-** Climate Change is more pressing; hottest years on record occur.
- Current US laws are inadequate to address it,
- **Climate Change Lawsuit; Our Children's Trust**

How are the Courts Used?

- Today many environmental groups use the courts to further environmental protections and keep existing laws relevant.
- *Julianna v. U.S.*- Our Children's Trust
- See film clip-<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/juliana-versus-united-states-the-climate-change-lawsuit-that-could-stop-the-u-s-government-from-supporting-fossil-fuels-60-minutes/>

What are the Approaches to Environmental Laws in the US?

- **1. Set standards for pollution levels**
(Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act).
- Accept some pollution and inspect to ensure pollution stays within limits of law.
- **2. Screen new substances for safety**
(Toxic Substances Control Act).
- **3. Encourage resource conservation**
(Nat'l Energy Act) Use less and reward conservation.

What Approaches do most environmental laws take?

- 4. Set aside or protect various ecosystems, resources and species (The Endangered Species Act); more controversial
- 5. Require an evaluation of the environmental impact of a project before it is built. (National Environmental Policy Act)
- **Who enforces environmental laws? The Environmental Protection Agency (federal)**

Timeline Activity

- Groups of 3-4
- Choose what your group thinks are the 12 MOST important events to help your community understand Environmental Law
- Cut them out and put them in chronological order on the large paper I pass out to you.
- Why did you choose each?

THURSDAY 12/19

- **Finish Invasive Species Poster-** Be sure it has headings and bulleted text below and picture (due Friday)
- **Work on Study Guide** (due Friday)
- **Work on INB summaries EQ#1-3** (due Friday)

Unit 1 Study Guide Work Time

- Unit 1 Test takes place on FRIDAY.
- Complete 20 ITEMS IN WRITING (any combination of QUESTIONS / TERMS) off of the Study Guide and turn in before the quiz.
- If you have your assignment done at class time, you earn FIVE extra credit points!!
Yay!