

July 1, 2014

Environmental Quiz

1. The population of the world in 1950 was about 2.6 billion. The world population is currently about:
  - a. 3.4 billion
  - b. 7.2 billion
  - c. 9.3 billion
  - d. 11.5 billion
  
2. The population of the world is currently increasing at a rate of about 8,900 people per \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. month
  - b. week
  - c. day
  - d. hour
  
3. The estimated world population in the year 2050 is about:
  - a. 3.4 billion
  - b. 6.8 billion
  - c. 9.4 billion
  - d. 11.5 billion
  
4. The population of the United States in 1960 (54 years ago) was 181 million. On July 1, 2014 the U.S. population was estimated to be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. 220 million
  - b. 319 million
  - c. 420 million
  - d. 511 million
  
5. The medium (most likely) estimate of the U.S. population in the year 2060 is:  
(Hint: the increase between 2014 and 2060 is expected to be greater than the whole of the U.S. population just 100 years ago (1914)).
  - a. 220 million
  - b. 319 million
  - c. 420 million
  - d. 511 million
  
6. China's current population (mid-year 2014) is 1.36 billion. Assuming a continuation of the current U.S. population growth (0.72% annually), how many years would it take for the U.S. population to become equal to the current population of China?
  - a. 50
  - b. 100
  - c. 200
  - d. 400
  - e. 1,000
  
- \_\_\_ 7. True (T) or False (F). Consumption of mineral resources globally has increased sharply over the past 30 years.
  
- \_\_\_ 8. True (T) or False (F). The world's most economically developed countries consume a far larger share of the world's industrial raw materials than their collective share of world population.

- \_\_\_ 9. True (T) or False (F). The United States is a net exporter of most raw materials used by industry today.
- \_\_\_ 10. True (T) or False (F). The raw material that is used in the greatest quantity in the United States today, and which accounts for almost one-third (by weight) of the total raw materials used annually, is steel.
- \_\_\_ 11. True (T) or False (F). Energy consumption per capita (per person) in the United States is twice that of the European Union.
12. China's emissions of carbon dioxide in 2012 were greater than those of any other nation, and 90% greater than those of the United States. In that same year, China's per capita emissions of carbon dioxide were:
- 35% greater than the U.S.
  - 15% greater than the U.S.
  - About the same as in the U.S.
  - Less than one-half those of the U.S.
  - Less than one-third those of the U.S.
- \_\_\_ 13. True (T) or False (F). Globally, the area of forests is declining, mostly due to human activity.
14. The number one cause of tropical deforestation worldwide is:
- commercial logging.
  - wildfire.
  - clearing of lands for agricultural use.
  - gathering of firewood.
  - building of roads and cities.
15. The area covered by forests in the United States today is approximately \_\_\_\_\_ of the forested area that existed in 1600.
- 73 percent
  - 50 percent
  - 33 percent
  - 17 percent
- \_\_\_ 16. True (T) or False (F). The geographic area that encompasses the United States today has greater forest coverage than the same geographic area did in 1920.
17. Which of the following statements most accurately describes United States forests:
- forest harvest exceeds net growth by 20 percent.
  - forest harvest exceeds net growth by 5 percent.
  - forest harvest roughly equals net growth.
  - net forest growth exceeds harvest by 29 percent.
  - net forest growth exceeds harvest by more than 100 percent.
- \_\_\_ 18. True (T) or False (F). Growing trees capture carbon dioxide from the air and release oxygen.
- \_\_\_ 19. True (T) or False (F). As originally established, it was never intended that the National Forests of the United States would be periodically harvested to obtain timber that would be used in meeting the nation's need for wood.
- \_\_\_ 20. True (T) or False (F). At current rates of deforestation, 40 percent of current forests in the United States will be lost by 2050.
- \_\_\_ 21. True (T) or False (F). In the U.S., more species of plants and animals have been driven to extinction by logging activity than any other activity of mankind.

- \_\_\_ 22. True (T) or False (F). Under current United States law, forest harvesting is allowed within federally designated wilderness areas.
- \_\_\_ 23. True (T) or False (F). Considering the total annual harvest of forests in the United States and the total consumption of wood and wood fiber products within our country, the U.S. is a net importer of wood and wood products.
24. As a percentage of all the paper used in the United States in 2013, \_\_\_\_\_ was recovered for reuse.
- a. 15 percent
  - b. 38 percent
  - c. 63 percent
  - d. 81 percent
25. Recovered paper provided \_\_\_\_\_ of the fiber used in manufacturing paper in the United States in 2013.
- a. 15 percent
  - b. 38 percent
  - c. 63 percent
  - d. 81 percent
- \_\_\_ 26. True (T) or False (F). Reduced paper consumption is likely to result in a greater extent of forest cover in the United States.
- \_\_\_ 27. True (T) or False (F). The manufacture of wood construction materials generally results in far lower environmental impacts than when similar construction materials are manufactured from steel, aluminum, plastic, or concrete.

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**Question for Thought:**

When someone says “In the United States, we have less than 4% of our original forests left,” what are they really saying?

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