

November 1, 2016

Environmental Quiz

Population numbers and environmental trends are linked. So, before asking questions about the environment, we ask a few questions about population dynamics.

1. The population of the world in 1950 was about 2.6 billion. The world population is now about:
 - a. 3.4 billion
 - b. 7.4 billion
 - c. 9.3 billion
 - d. 11.5 billion

2. The population of the world in 2016 was increasing at a rate of about 9,000 people per _____.
 - a. month
 - b. week
 - c. day
 - d. hour

3. The world population in the year 2050 is projected to be about:
 - a. 3.4 billion
 - b. 6.8 billion
 - c. 9.7 billion
 - d. 11.5 billion

4. The population of the United States in 1960 (56 years ago) was 181 million. In October, 2016 the U.S. population was estimated to be _____.
 - a. 220 million
 - b. 325 million
 - c. 420 million
 - d. 511 million

5. The medium (most likely) estimate of the U.S. population in the year 2060 is:
 - a. 220 million
 - b. 319 million
 - c. 417 million
 - d. 511 million

6. China's mid-year 2016 population was estimated at 1.37 billion. That's more than 4 times the U.S. population. Assuming a continuation of the 2016 U.S. population growth rate (0.82% annually), how many years would it take for the U.S. population to become equal to the 2016 population of China?
 - a. 50
 - b. 90
 - c. 175
 - d. 400
 - e. 900

- ___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.

10. Considering U.S. annual consumption of the following materials, which is consumed in the greatest quantity? (Note: Cement is a binder, and makes up 8-15% of concrete).
- steel
 - aluminum
 - wood
 - plastic
 - cement
- ___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 2014 were greater than those of any other nation, and double 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. Water covers approximately 70% of the Earth's surface. About ____% of this is available for human use.
- 1
 - 5
 - 10
 - 15
- ___14. True (T) or False (F). Globally, the area of forests is declining, mostly due to human activity.
15. 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
16. The area covered by forests in the United States in 2012 was approximately _____ of the forested area that existed in 1600.
- 73 percent
 - 50 percent
 - 33 percent
 - 17 percent
- ___17. 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.
18. 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
- ___19. True (T) or False (F). Growing trees capture carbon dioxide from the air and release oxygen.

- ___20. 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.
- ___21. True (T) or False (F). At current rates of deforestation, 40 percent of current forests in the United States will be lost by 2050.
- ___22. True (T) or False (F). When properly managed, forests can provide products and services indefinitely.
- ___23. 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.
- ___24. True (T) or False (F). Under United States law, forest harvesting is allowed within federally designated wilderness areas.
- ___25. 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.
26. As a percentage of all the paper used in the United States in 2015 _____ was recovered for reuse.
- a. 15 percent
 - b. 38 percent
 - c. 67 percent
 - d. 81 percent
27. Recovered paper provided _____ of the fiber used in manufacturing paper in the United States in 2015.
- a. 15 percent
 - b. 40 percent
 - c. 60 percent
 - d. 80 percent
- ___28. True (T) or False (F). Paper can be recycled indefinitely so that no more trees need to be cut.
- ___29. True (T) or False (F). Reduced paper consumption is likely to result in a greater extent of forest cover in the United States.
- ___30. 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.

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?
