

Pre-Survey: ESYS 10, Winter 2003
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Name:

Year:

Field of study:

Why are you taking this class?

What (if any) other science breadth classes have you taken?

What (if any) other policy classes have you taken?

What do you hope to learn in this class?

Opinion Poll

These questions come from a selection of surveys conducted in recent years in the U.S. What do you think about environmental issues?

1. Here's a list of environmental problems. Do you personally worry about each of these problems a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or not at all. (Gallup poll, March 2001)

Environmental problem	Great deal	Fair amount	Only a little	Not at all
a. Acid rain				
b. Contamination of soil and water by radioactivity from nuclear facilities				
c. Damage to the Earth's ozone layer				
d. Urban sprawl and loss of open spaces				
e. The loss of natural habitat for wildlife				
f. Air pollution				
g. Pollution of rivers, lakes, and reservoirs				
h. The loss of tropical rain forests				
i. Pollution of drinking water				
j. Ocean and beach pollution				
k. The "greenhouse effect" or global warming				
l. Contamination of soil and water by toxic waste				
m. Extinction of plant and animal species				

2. Next, thinking about the issue of global warming, sometimes called the "greenhouse effect," how well do you feel you understand this issue – would you say?

- a. Very well
- b. Fairly well
- c. Not very well
- d. Not at all
- e. No opinion

3. Which of the following statements reflects your view of when the effects of global warming will begin to happen –

- a. They have already begun to happen.
- b. They will start happening within a few years.
- c. They will start happening within your lifetime.
- d. They will not happen within your lifetime, but they will affect future generations.
- e. They will never happen.
- f. No opinion.

4. Just your impression, which one of the following statements do you think is most accurate.
 - a. Most scientists believe that global warming is occurring.
 - b. Most scientists believe that global warming is NOT occurring.
 - c. Most scientists are unsure about whether global warming is occurring.
 - d. No opinion.

5. Do you think that global warming will pose a serious threat to you or your way of life in your lifetime?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No.
 - c. No opinion.

6. Thinking about what is said in the news, in your view is the seriousness of global warming:
 - a. generally exaggerated?
 - b. generally correct?
 - c. generally underestimated?
 - d. No opinion.

7. And from what you have heard or read, do you believe increases in the Earth's temperature over the last century are due more to:
 - a. the effects of pollution from human activities?
 - b. natural changes in the environment that are not due to human activities?
 - c. No opinion.

8. Should the United States join the Kyoto treaty? (from ABC news, April 2001)
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. No opinion

Preview Questions

These questions come from environmental and global warming quizzes prepared by the Environmental News Network (<http://www.enn.com>). They are intended to whet your appetite for the material that we'll be talking about this quarter. Don't panic. You aren't supposed to know the answers yet.

1. What is generally agreed upon as being the greatest threat to our wildlife resources?
 - a. pollution
 - b. global warming
 - c. habitat loss
 - d. ozone depletion

2. What is the current population of the Earth?
 - a. 3 billion
 - b. 5 billion
 - c. 10 billion
 - d. 6 billion

3. Worldwide, most childhood deaths are caused by:
 - a. starvation
 - b. car accidents
 - c. water pollution

4. Which action can have the greatest impact on reducing the threat of global warming?
 - a. recycling
 - b. reducing energy use
 - c. composting
 - d. planting a tree

5. Which form of household heating is generally considered most environmentally friendly?
 - a. electric baseboard
 - b. coal
 - c. wood
 - d. natural gas

6. How much water does the average person living in the United States use in a day?
 - a. 10 gallons
 - b. 20 gallons
 - c. 50 gallons
 - d. 100 gallons

7. Which produces more greenhouse gas pollution?
 - a. the average home
 - b. the average car
 - c. neither produce any

8. What is the main source of water pollution in the United States?
 - a. oil spills
 - b. runoff from farm fields, roads, parking lots, and lawns
 - c. sewage

9. What year did the former Soviet Union loft the first artificial satellite, Sputnik 1, into Earth orbit?
- a. 1945
 - b. 1950
 - c. 1957
 - d. 1969
10. How much trash does the average person throw out annually?
- a. 500 pounds
 - b. 1000 pounds
 - c. 1500 pounds
11. The concentration of which gas can be reduced by preventing forest depletion?
- a. Carbon dioxide (CO_2)
 - b. Nitrous oxide (N_2O)
 - c. Oxygen (O_2)
 - d. Methane (CH_4)
12. What is the Earth's average temperature?
- a. 45° Farenheit (7° Celsius)
 - b. 59° Farenheit (15° Celsius)
 - c. 64° Farenheit (18° Celsius)
 - d. 72° Farenheit (22° Celsius)
13. What are the main gases that contribute to the Greenhouse Effect?
- a. Carbon dioxide (CO_2)
 - b. Nitrous oxide (N_2O)
 - c. Methane (CH_4)
 - d. Water vapor
 - e. All of the above
14. What is the approximate increase in global surface temperatures in the past century?
- a. 1°F (0.5°C)
 - b. 1.5°F (0.8°C)
 - c. 2°F (1.1°C)
 - d. 5°F (2.8°C)
15. In 1997, a proposal was forged in Kyoto, Japan to decrease greenhouse-gas emissions by the year 2012. According to this agreement, the United States and other industrialized nations agreed to reduce emissions by what percent?
- a. 2 percent
 - b. 6 percent
 - c. 8 percent
 - d. 10 percent