

Pest Control

Many pest species that are native to North America, such as white-footed mice and ground moles, are more nuisance pests and are usually regulated by native predators and parasites. This situation is not true for nonindigenous pests in North America, such as brown rats and cockroaches. After centuries, it is **evident** that these pests cannot be eradicated. The best that can be done is to introduce pest control measures that will control their numbers.

And ancient and popular means of pest control is chemical. For example, the Sumerians used sulfur to combat crop pests, and by the early 1800s such chemicals as arsenic were used to combat insect and fungal pests.

However, chemical control has its dark side. **Chemical pesticides have many unintended consequences through their effects not just on the target species but on a wide array of nontarget species as well, often eliminating them and thereby upsetting the existing food webs, especially through the suppression of native predator species.** The surviving pests then rebound in greater numbers than ever.

1. The word "**evident**" in the passage is closest in meaning to
☐ surprising ☐ obvious ☐ believed ☐ frustrating
2. What can be inferred from paragraph 1 about nonindigenous pests such as brown rats and cockroaches?
☐ Attempts limit the size of their populations have been unsuccessful.
☐ They have inhabited North America longer than white-footed mice and ground moles.
☐ Their numbers cannot usually be controlled by native predators and parasites.
☐ They do not pose as many problems for humans as do white-footed mice and ground moles.
3. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in the passage? Incorrect choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.
☐ Chemical pesticides often eliminate species other than the intended target and thereby upset food webs, especially by suppressing native predator species.
☐ Native predator species are often eliminated by chemical pesticides that are intended to have consequences for other pests.
☐ Chemical pesticides upset existing food webs by eliminating native species and by increasing the number of nonnative predators.
☐ The effects of chemical pesticides on a wide array of food webs and native predators are often unintended.

ANS: BCA