

The “Field” Events in Track and Field

Fill in the circle by the correct answer. Then answer questions 3, 4, and 5.

1. Which word can be used as a noun OR as a verb?

- (A) comprises
- (B) lunges
- (C) discus
- (D) javelin

2. Into which three categories do track and field events fall?

- (A) running, jumping, and throwing
- (B) track, field, and multi-events
- (C) high jump, pole vault, and long jump
- (D) discus, hammer, and javelin

3. Explain how the author organizes this article paragraph by paragraph.
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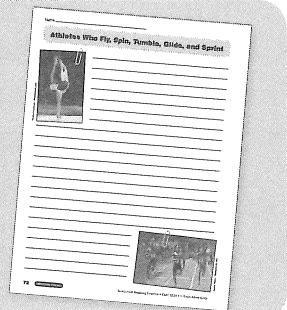
4. Do you think an athlete who competes in the high jump would do well at the long jump? Why or why not?
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5. Which throwing event would you like to compete in and why?
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Write About the Topic

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

Write a summary of the article that categorizes all of the track and field events that the writer mentions.



Rachel Carson

Level 1

Words to Know list, Reading Selection, and Reading Comprehension questions

Level 2 ■ ■

Words to Know list, Reading Selection, and Reading Comprehension questions

<p>Name _____</p> <p>Rachel Carson's Silent Spring</p> <p>Fill in the circle by the correct answer. <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>Rachel Carson's Silent Spring</p> <p>The following passage from <i>Silent Spring</i> describes the effects of DDT on the environment. In the space provided, write the letter of the statement which best completes the passage.</p> <p>The other task of the environmentalist is not only to raise a demand for the preservation of the earth, but also to insist upon its preservation. The environmentalist must be a prophet, a seer, a prophet who sees the world as it is, and can see the world as it must be.</p> <p>—Rachel Carson, <i>Silent Spring</i></p> <p>How was Rachel Carson able to keep the attention of the public? She kept people's minds focused on plant and animal issues, and she did this through her writing and her art.</p> <p>For the Love of Mother Earth</p> <p>Rachel Carson had a love for nature that was extremely evident during her lifetime (1907-1964). As a scientist with deep knowledge of marine life, she understood how delicate ecosystems affect animals and their habitats. She had a desire to protect these environments and a passion to inform the public about the need to protect them from the effects of DDT.</p> <p>Even though the author never became famous, Carson deserved her title as a "prophet who sees the world as it is, and can see the world as it must be." Her environmental book had such a powerful impact on society that it inspired many people to take action. Today, environmentalists continue to work for the protection of the environment. They continue to speak up for the health of our soil, water, air, and animals, just as the environmentalists did in the 1960s.</p> <p>Carson's changes stopped people's careers with pesticide companies. Some tried to block her from becoming a scientist. Others threatened to fire her if she kept writing. Two corporate partners withdrew their advertising support from her TV program.</p> <p>Rachel Carson's Legacy</p> <p>Carson's controls could not last 12 hours. Today, more than 50 years later, we still have DDT in our environment. DDT is still used in some countries, but it is banned in the United States. Carson's work inspired many environmentalists to continue the fight for the health of our environment. Her legacy lives on.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Want to know more? Rachel Carson's Silent Spring</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Carson, Rachel Louise. <i>Silent Spring</i>. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1962.</small></p> <p style="text-align: right;">deeply preservation addressed zoology pesticides immediate devoted controversial detectors reference Conservation Commitment sympathies corporate sponsors significance</p>
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Level 3 ■ ■ ■

Words to Know list, Reading Selection, and Reading Comprehension questions

Assemble the Unit

Reproduce and distribute one copy for each student:

- Visual Literacy page: Timeline of Rachel Carson's Life, page 81
 - Level 1, 2, or 3 Reading Selection and Reading Comprehension page and the corresponding Words to Know list
 - Graphic Organizer of your choosing, provided on pages 180–186
 - Writing Form: Rachel Carson's Environmentalism, page 82

Introduce the Topic

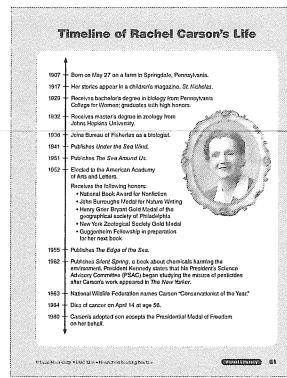
Read aloud and discuss the “Timeline of Rachel Carson’s Life” text and portrait on the Visual Literacy page. Explain that Carson was unusual for many reasons. One was that she was one of very few women scientists in the U.S. at that time (the first half of the 1900s).

Read and Respond

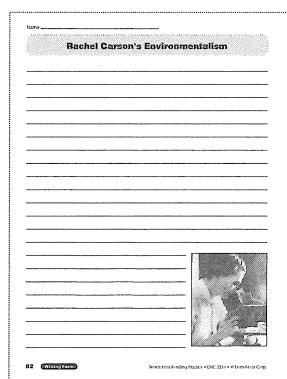
Form leveled groups and review the Words to Know lists with each group of students. Instruct each group to read their selection individually, in pairs, or as a group. Have students complete the Reading Comprehension page for their selection.

Write About the Topic

Read aloud the leveled writing prompt for each group. Tell students to use the Graphic Organizer to plan their writing. Direct students to use their Writing Form to respond to their prompt.



Visual Literacy



Writing Form

Timeline of Rachel Carson's Life

- 1907 — Born on May 27 on a farm in Springdale, Pennsylvania.
- 1917 — Her stories appear in a children's magazine, *St. Nicholas*.
- 1929 — Receives bachelor's degree in biology from Pennsylvania College for Women; graduates with high honors.
- 1932 — Receives master's degree in zoology from Johns Hopkins University.
- 1936 — Joins Bureau of Fisheries as a biologist.
- 1941 — Publishes *Under the Sea Wind*.
- 1951 — Publishes *The Sea Around Us*.
- 1952 — Elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters.
Receives the following honors:
- National Book Award for Nonfiction
 - John Burroughs Medal for Nature Writing
 - Henry Grier Bryant Gold Medal of the Geographical Society of Philadelphia
 - New York Zoological Society Gold Medal
 - Guggenheim Fellowship in preparation for her next book
- 1955 — Publishes *The Edge of the Sea*.
- 1962 — Publishes *Silent Spring*, a book about chemicals harming the environment. President Kennedy states that his President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC) began studying the misuse of pesticides after Carson's work appeared in *The New Yorker*.
- 1963 — National Wildlife Federation names Carson "Conservationist of the Year."
- 1964 — Dies of cancer on April 14 at age 56.
- 1980 — Carson's adopted son accepts the Presidential Medal of Freedom on her behalf.



Rachel Carson's Environmentalism



Words to Know

Rachel Carson, Environmentalist

environmentalist
contaminated
precisely
diligently
zoology
marine biology
Great Depression
aquatic biologist
triggered
DDT
insecticide
contended
beneficial
pesticide

Rachel Carson ■ ■

Words to Know

Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*

deceptively
preservation
addressed
zoology
pesticides
insecticide
devoted
controversial
detractors
reference
Communist
sympathies
corporate sponsors
significant

Rachel Carson ■ ■ ■

Words to Know

A Leader in the Environmental Movement

environmental
movement
marine biology
established
devote
controversial
riled up
pesticide
via
beneficial
insecticides
influential
eaglet
embryos
impact

Rachel Carson ■ ■ ■ ■



Rachel Carson, Environmentalist

"How could intelligent beings seek to control a few unwanted species by a method that contaminated the entire environment and brought the threat of disease and death even to their own kind? Yet this is precisely what we have done."

—Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*

A Budding Writer and Scientist

As a little girl in Pennsylvania, Rachel Carson loved to wander around her family's farm. Her nature-loving mother encouraged her to learn about the many wild plants and animals that lived there.

Rachel's writing career began in fourth grade. Her story "A Battle in the Clouds" appeared in a children's magazine. The magazine paid her a penny a word. She also received a silver badge for her work. That badge meant more to Carson than any paycheck she received for later work, even payments for her best-selling nonfiction books.

An Excellent College Student

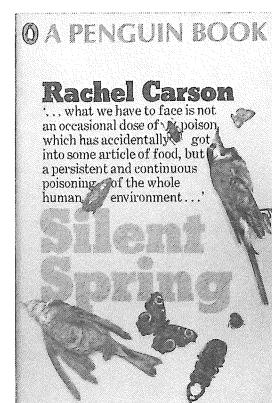
Rachel studied diligently in school and earned a college scholarship. She graduated from Pennsylvania College for Women (now called Chatham University) in 1929. At first she majored in English, but midway through she switched to biology. She won a summer scholarship to the Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Later she won yet another scholarship to attend graduate school at Johns Hopkins University. There she earned a master's degree in zoology. She hoped to earn a doctorate in marine biology, but she had to leave school due to the Great Depression.

A Trailblazer in Environmental Protection

To support herself and her family, Carson worked as a college professor, as a freelance writer, and as an aquatic biologist for the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife. She wrote many articles and several books. In time, her writing sold so well that she was able to write full time.

Carson is best remembered for her book *Silent Spring*. Many scientists and book critics believe that this work triggered the environmental movement in the U.S. In *Silent Spring*, Carson warned against the use of DDT, a powerful insecticide. She contended that DDT and other chemicals would wipe out many beneficial insect, fish, and bird species. These poisons harmed people, as well, she claimed.

People connected with the pesticide industry were angry with Carson. They argued that chemicals allowed farmers to feed hungry people around the world. Yet the government sided with Carson. Eventually, President Nixon established the Environmental Protection Agency. By 1972, laws banned DDT use in the U.S.



Rachel Carson, Environmentalist

Fill in the circle by the correct answer. Then answer questions 3, 4, and 5.

1. Which pair of words are synonyms?
 - (A) environmentalist, biologist
 - (B) contaminated, contended
 - (C) marine, aquatic
 - (D) diligently, precisely

2. The Depression probably caused Carson to leave graduate school because she _____.
 - (A) was too sad to continue her studies
 - (B) was too poor to continue her studies
 - (C) decided not to earn a doctorate, after all
 - (D) could teach college without a graduate degree

3. How does the quotation below the title relate to the whole passage?

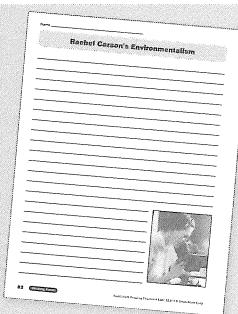
4. What inference can you make about people's views on pesticides in the mid-1900s?

5. Reread the quotation below the title. Restate it in your own words.

Write About the Topic

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

Do you think Rachel Carson's discoveries were a benefit or a nuisance to farmers in the United States? Explain your opinion.



Rachel Carson's Silent Spring

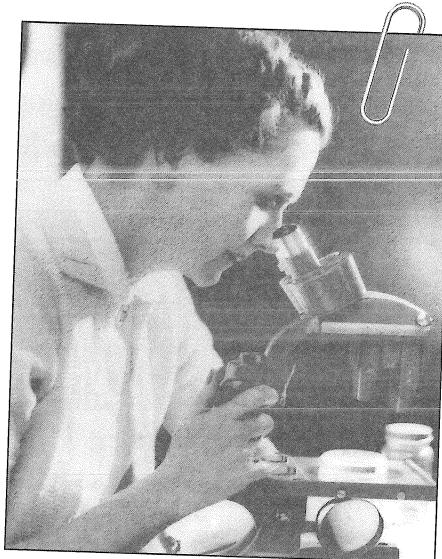
"The road we have long been traveling is deceptively easy, a smooth superhighway on which we progress with great speed, but at its end lies disaster. The other fork of the road...offers our last, our only chance to reach a destination that assures the preservation of the earth."

—Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*

How safe is the food we eat? How clean is the air we breathe? Do high profits justify wiping out plant and animal species? Rachel Carson addressed such questions in her book *Silent Spring*.

For the Love of Mother Earth

Carson loved nature. She was also extremely worried about its condition during her lifetime (1907 to 1964). As a scientist with degrees in biology and zoology, she studied ways that pesticides affected wildlife and their habitats. She had a strong desire to inform the public about the dangers of products such as the insecticide DDT.



Carson examining a specimen in her lab.

Even though she suffered from breast cancer, Carson devoted her time to researching and writing a book called *Silent Spring*. Published in 1962, this controversial book had strong supporters as well as bitter enemies. Her detractors said that Carson was not a "real" scientist. (They justified this by pointing out that she had a master's degree rather than a doctorate.) In a letter to *The New Yorker*, one critic wrote: "Miss Rachel Carson's reference to the selfishness of insecticide manufacturers probably reflects her Communist sympathies...We can live without birds and animals, but, as the current market slump shows, we cannot live without business."

Carson's charges outraged people connected with pesticide companies. Some tried to block her book from publication. When CBS News scheduled an hour-long report on *Silent Spring*, two corporate sponsors withdrew their advertising from the TV program.

Rachel Carson's Legacy

Carson's critics could not silence her. Her book remained on the best-seller list for months. It was translated into 17 languages. Today, more than 50 years after its publication, this significant work is still in print. Millions of people have read it. Largely due to Carson's work, the U.S. established the Environmental Protection Agency in 1970. The government banned DDT in 1972. Many environmentalists consider Carson the founder of their movement.

Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*

Fill in the circle by the correct answer. Then answer questions 3, 4, and 5.

1. The word "detractors" in paragraph 4 is an antonym for _____.
 A profits
 B dangers
 C supporters
 D manufacturers
2. The "smooth superhighway" in paragraph 1 is a metaphor for _____.
 A imitating nature to make people's lives more natural
 B traveling quickly from one ruined habitat to another
 C avoiding harmful chemicals by eating organic foods
 D using modern chemicals to make life easier for people
3. What do you think motivated Carson to share her beliefs?

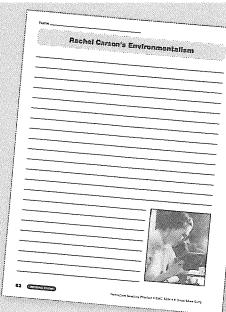
4. Infer why the critic (paragraph 4) thought that Carson had "Communist sympathies."

5. In your opinion, was Rachel Carson a "real" scientist? Why or why not?

Write About the Topic

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

Compare and contrast what the insecticide-manufacturing business would be like if Carson's book had not been published.



A Leader in the Environmental Movement

"Only within...the present century has one species—man—acquired significant power to alter the nature of the world."

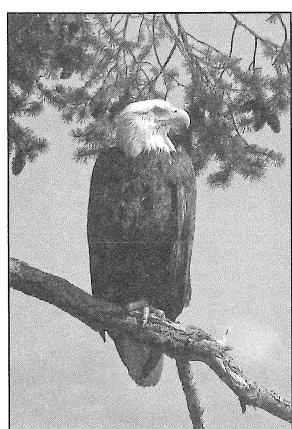
—Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*

Born in 1907 on a farm in Springdale, Pennsylvania, Rachel Carson fell in love with nature. Details of the world's natural beauty thrilled her. Rachel's first published nature story, "A Battle in the Clouds," appeared in *St. Nicholas Magazine* when she was in fourth grade. For most of her life, Carson used her writing skills to express her passion for plants, animals, and other aspects of nature.



Carson studied marine biology in college. Marine life captivated her, so she wrote three books to express her fascination. They are titled *Under the Sea Wind* (1941), *The Sea Around Us* (1951), and *The Edge of the Sea* (1955). These works established Carson as a world-famous science writer. The books earned so much money that she was able to build a cottage on the coast of Maine. She was also able to quit her other jobs and devote her time to researching and writing her next—and most famous—book, *Silent Spring*.

Published in 1962, *Silent Spring* was a controversial book. It riled up the public, especially nature lovers and people in the pesticide industry. In the book, Carson described ways that pesticides were threatening wildlife and even poisoning humans via the food supply. Chemical company spokespeople disagreed. Pesticides, they protested, were beneficial rather than harmful to humans. One critic said, "If man were to follow the teachings of Miss Carson, we would return to the Dark Ages, and the insects and diseases and vermin would once again inherit the earth." Readers who agreed with Carson asked what the U.S. government was going to do about strong insecticides like DDT.



Many environmentalists think that *Silent Spring* is the most influential book of the past 50 years. It led President Nixon to establish the Environmental Protection Agency in 1970. The U.S. passed laws banning DDT and limiting other chemicals' use. These laws saved the bald eagle from extinction. No longer would DDT in its food supply weaken the eagle's eggshells, killing eaglet embryos.

Carson died of cancer in 1964 at age 58, so—sadly—she never knew what a huge impact she had on the environmental movement.