



TEST PREP **Test Strategy**

Author and Me

The answer is not directly stated. Connect the clues to figure it out.

Silent Spring No Longer:

Rachel Carson

Rachel Carson was an author and a scientist who loved nature—especially the sea. Rachel began writing at a very young age. She published her first piece of writing in a magazine for children in 1918, when she was just 11 years old. She kept writing throughout her entire life.



Rachel Carson was born on a farm in Springdale, Pennsylvania, in 1907. There she learned to adore nature. She often said that it was her mother who first showed her the wonders of nature. When Carson went to college, she planned to become a writer, but her love of nature took over. She changed her major from English to marine biology. Marine biology is the study of life in the sea. After college, Carson taught for five years before joining the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries. The bureau later became the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Carson's new job allowed her to share her love of the sea with other people. She wrote a radio show, called "Romance Under the Waters," that explored life in the seas. Carson's writing made the sea come alive for listeners. She wrote three books about the sea: *Under the Sea Wind*, *The Sea Around Us*, and *The Edge of the Sea*. These books all became bestsellers and won many awards. Carson soon left her job so she could write all the time.

In the late 1940s and 1950s, people used chemicals called pesticides to kill unwanted insects. One of these pesticides was DDT. Scientists began to learn that pesticides were harmful to other living things. DDT did kill harmful insects, but it also killed birds. Birds took the chemical into their bodies when they ate insects infected with DDT. The chemicals made the birds' eggs very frail. The delicate eggs broke easily, and many baby birds did not hatch. Birds such as peregrine falcons began to die and were likely to become extinct.



Answer Questions

Rachel Carson became concerned about this problem. Because she was an excellent scientist, she spent a lot of time gathering the facts. When she was ready, she began to write her book, *Silent Spring*. She wanted to make people aware that birds were dying and that if things didn't change, people would no longer hear birds' songs in the springtime.

The companies that made the chemicals tried to stop Carson's book by saying that she was mistaken. Other people believed she was right, though. President John F. Kennedy called for testing of the chemicals. Tests showed that Carson had not been misled, and that her ideas were correct. Pesticides were harming the environment and causing birds to die.

Rachel Carson published *Silent Spring* in 1962. Because she died in 1964, Rachel Carson did not get to see her work change history. The use of DDT in the United States was banned in 1972. Since then, birds that were in danger of disappearing have returned. Now, each spring, you can hear birds singing in the trees. Thanks to Rachel Carson, spring has not become silent.



pair of blue jays with young

Tip

Connect the clues or ideas from the passage to choose the best answer.

Directions: Answer the questions.**1. Why did it take ten years for the government to ban DDT after *Silent Spring* was published?**

- A People did not care that birds were dying.
- B Chemical companies tried to argue that she was wrong.
- C Rachel Carson's ideas had been proven wrong.
- D Tests showed that DDT did more good than harm.

2. Why did birds return after DDT was banned?

- A There is no connection between birds and DDT.
- B There were fewer insects for the birds to eat.
- C Birds did not like the smell of DDT.
- D More baby birds hatched from healthy eggs.

3. Chemical companies claimed that Rachel Carson was mistaken. What does *mistaken* mean?

- A confused
- B wrong
- C unhappy
- D right

4. If you could interview Rachel Carson about her life and work, what question would you like to ask her?**5. What impact does Rachel Carson's work have on people's lives today? Include examples from the selection in your answer.****Writing Prompt**

Write a set of directions on how to do an interview. Explain how to prepare and what kinds of questions you should ask. Write at least six steps that are clear and easy to follow.

