**APES: American Experience: Earth Days**

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**Directions:** *Answer the following questions as you watch the video. Some of the questions require you to use prior knowledge or logic to answer.*

1: Explain how the **values of conservation and frugality** changed in America after the war.

-People after the war started to produce goods in order to “get rich”, and people were proud to be conservationists, treating the Earth like a gift.

2: Almost **all environmental problems** are tied to: Humans

3: *What gases* are produced as a result of paper mills?

-Sulfur dioxide and hydrogen sulfite

4: *Which element* is found in all living things now that didn’t used to even exist?

-Strontium 90

5: What were the consequences of Rachel Carson’s book, *“Silent Spring”*?

-Concerned people started to create conservationist groups. Despite backlash towards Carson’s book, she defended her book, and the modern environmental movement was born.

6: Comment on the fact that the accumulation of more material goods makes people

less happy *(in general).*

-If people are presented more and more goods to the point where the majority of the population is spoiled in possessions, then we get less satisfaction from and maintaining a social life because of our “addiction” and emphasis on material goods.

7: How have humans **violated some of the basic laws of ecology**? *(Hint: how do we get energy?)*

-Humans have violated the laws of ecology by obtaining energy from sources that harm the environment (fossil fuels) instead of natural energy (solar, wind).

8: *What happened* in New York City in 1966?

-Numerous people died from a smog episode in NYC.

9: *Which animal* was at the top of the 1st list of Endangered Species?

-The Bald Eagle.

10: *Which organization* helped to stop the damming of the Grand Canyon?

-The National Wildlife Foundation; the Sierra Club

11: What is the difference between the **environmental movement** and the **conservation movement?**

-The environmental movement is acting for the good of the environment and the ecosystem; the conservationist movement tries to save the area itself.

12: What was the *name of the book* written by Paul Erhlich? *What was the topic?*

*-The Population Bomb*, it was about overpopulation

13: What was the **population of the Earth** in 1968? What is the population now?

-3.5 billion; 6.5 billion

14: What did **Stephanie Mills** say in her graduation speech? *What did she vow to do?*

-Stephanie Mills talked about human reproduction and overpopulation as an obstacle. She vowed never to have a child.

15: What does *“going back to the land”* mean? What is your opinion? Could you grow

Your own food? Could you take care of yourself/not depend on others for your survival?

-“Going back to the land” means providing for yourself and reducing your ecological impact by refraining from using industry goods and manufactured items. I would not choose this lifestyle, however, unless I had no choice. I honestly don’t believe that I could provide for myself; I have no experience.

16: What contribution did **Jacques Cousteau** give to the environmental movement? How?

-Cousteau stressed that satellite imagery was necessary to monitor the ocean and what was happening to it. This caused space campaigns to be developed that were focused on satellite imagery and monitoring.

17: How does the photograph of the Earth from space help us to realize that we are living on *“an island”?*

-It helped people realize that Earth was way smaller than once perceived, and that our resources were more finite than imagined (like an island).

18: When was the first *“Earth Day”*?

-April 22nd, 1970

19: What was the *media’s reaction* to the plan for Earth Day?

-They believed that the movement was meant to deter attention from the Vietnam war as well as believed that the day was a waste of time and money and that it was only a fad.

20: How many people participated in the first Earth Day?

-about 20 million people.

21: How did Earth Day help to unite people in a common cause?

-It provoked people to engage in activities that displayed caring towards the Earth, and acts that protested what the people were doing to the environment.

22: Who were the *“Dirty Dozen”* (not specific names):

-A campaign that targeted 12 US congressmen and women that had terrible environmental records (the actual dirty dozen) in order to raise awareness of their doings.

23: What are some of the **environmental laws** that were passed in the early 1970’s?

-The clean water, clean air, endangered species, estuarine protection, coastal zone protection, and the marine mammal protection acts.

24: What **agency** did Nixon sign into law?

-The Environmental Protection Agency

25: People think changes happen linearly, but in fact, environmental problems

happen : exponentially

26: What is *“overshoot and collapse”* and when does this happen?

-Overshoot and collapse is the act of going past the limit of resources, causing population to collapse. This occurs when problems such as overpopulation stack exponentially to the point where the limit is passed.

27: How can people today relate to the **Ancient Mesopotamians, Egyptians, Mayans, Romans, and Greeks?**

-People can relate to the ancient civilizations today because we are repeating the same mistake these civilizations went through – the ignorant overuse of resources and the environment, and overpopulation.

28: What happened during the **Arab Oil Embargo**?

-The Arab Oil Embargo caused oil prices to increase dramatically from $4 a barrel to $16, causing the US to ration gasoline due to shortages.

29: What could have happened during the Arab Oil Embargo but didnt....?

-The use of renewable, eco-friendly energy

30: Why do politicians not push *energy initiatives or environmental issues?*

-Because people refused to comply with initiatives due to their professions that would possibly become endangered (logging companies).

31: What did the **Sierra Club** want logging companies to do?

-The Sierra Club wanted logging companies to use better, more sustainable logging practices.

32: Explain **sustainable logging:**

-Sustainable logging is logging that attempts to preserve a forest’s health and development by issuing limits and other methods.

33: Why did GM *not create an electric or alternative energy vehicle* years ago?

-Because executives believed that they would remain successful if they continued the business practices they were normally doing.

34: What did the **California Energy Commission** do?

-The CEC encouraged people in CA to adopt energy-efficient fixtures and structures such as solar panels.

35: Which president had **solar water heaters** installed on White House roof?

-Jimmy Carter

36: Which president *“shut down”* the alternative energy movement?

-Ronald Reagan

37: What is the *“tipping point”*?

-The point in which the Earth will collapse due to overpopulation, overexploitation of environment, etc.

38: Complete this quote: “We have not inherited the Earth but rather, we have **borrowed it from our grandchildren.**”

**Reflect on what you have learned by watching this documentary**- *give your opinion.*

The Earth’s environmental issues were once a second thought to people living in a world where conservation was a key element in everyday life. After the war, however, the US’s hubris-fueled “produce everything” regime soon ravaged the environment, killing ecosystems that were stripped of resources for factories. These events prompted numerous acts and policies to be passed in order to stop the Earth from collapsing beneath our feet.  
  
I think that these policies are definitely a good idea – the only obstacle that is present is the public’s (and the companies’) resistance to change. The abundance that has been a part of life for about 60 years has caused people to rely too much on manufactured goods and industrial processes that make life easier. Meanwhile, the environment has been taking in damage. I believe that in order to change the opinions of the people that resist this change, one must give them a reason to, and a possible outcome for them. If someone doesn’t know the possible outcome of a choice, they will refrain from choosing it. The public must be faced with an ultimatum – will they choose to save the Earth now, or will they let it collapse, exasperated?