



RACHEL CARSON



Born: 27th May 1907 in Springdale, Pennsylvania

Died: 14th April 1964 in Silver Spring, Maryland

Occupation: Marine biologist, author and environmentalist

Best known for: Founder of environmental science

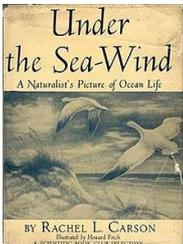
EARLY LIFE

She grew up on a large farm where she learned about nature and animals. Rachel loved to read and write stories as a child. She even had a story published when she was only eleven years old. One of Rachel's favourite subjects was the ocean. Rachel attended college at the Pennsylvania College for Women where she majored in biology. She later got her master's degree in zoology from John Hopkins University.

CAREER

After graduation, Rachel taught for a while and then got a job with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. At first, she wrote for a weekly radio program that educated people on marine biology. Later, she became a full-time marine biologist and was chief editor of publications for the Fish and Wildlife Service.

WRITING



In addition to her work at the Fish and Wildlife Service, Rachel wrote articles for magazines about the ocean. In 1941, she published her first book called *Under the Sea Wind*. However, it was her second book, *The Sea Around Us*, which made her famous. *The Sea Around Us* was published in 1951 and was on the New York Times Best Seller List for over 80 weeks. With the success of the book, Rachel quit her job at the Fish and Wildlife Service and began to write full time.

DANGERS OF PESTICIDES

During World War II, government research had developed synthetic pesticides (man-made). Pesticides are used to kill pests such as insects, weeds and small animals that can destroy crops. After the war, farmers began to use pesticides on their crops. One of the main pesticides used was called DDT. Rachel was concerned about the effects that large scale spraying of DDT may have on the health of people as well as the environment. DDT was being sprayed onto crops in huge quantities from the air. Carson began to gather research on pesticides. She found that certain pesticides could adversely affect the environment and make people sick. She began to write a book about the subject.

SILENT SPRING

Carson spent four years gathering research and writing the book. She named it *Silent Spring* referring to birds dying due to pesticides and the spring being silent without their song. The book was published in 1962. The book became very popular and brought the environmental issues of pesticides to the general public.



FIND OUT MORE...

https://www.ducksters.com/biography/scientists/rachel_carson.php

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=XAqtfMINgN8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rtX9yf62BXU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lv7gavowt78>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZVEzCmiXM4>

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. What year was Rachel Carson born?
2. Silent Spring was published in which year?
3. Which Rachel Carson book made her famous and spent over 80 weeks on the New York Times Best Seller list?
4. True or False: Rachel Carson called for the banning of all pesticides in the United States.
5. True or False: The pesticide DDT is now banned in the United States.