

Evaluating Multiple Sources

Part One.

A. Watch the section at the beginning of the video, up to the point where Rachel Carson stops speaking. Then pause the video and answer these questions.

1. What claim is made by Rachel Carson at the beginning of the video? Paraphrase her claim below.

2. What support does Carson provide for her claim? Summarize her reasons for believing what she does about pesticides.

3. What appears on screen while Carson is making her argument? Describe the images that appear.

B. Watch the section of the video during which the chemical industry representative speaks—up until the credits begin. Then pause the video and answer these questions.

1. What claim is made by the chemical engineer? Paraphrase his claim below.

2. What support does the chemical engineer provide for his claim? Summarize his reasons for believing what he does about pesticides.

3. What appears on screen while the chemical industry representative is making his argument? Describe the images that appear.

C. Watch the rest of the video. Then answer these questions.

1. CBS provided a forum for heads of corporations, industry representatives, and government leaders to respond to Carson's claims. In general, what was their response?

How would you describe the language that these experts used to deliver their arguments? (Cite some examples of words or phrases.)

2. After proponents of pesticide use are allowed to speak on behalf of their organizations, the camera returns to Rachel Carson. What does she say to clarify her argument regarding the use of pesticides?

How would you describe the language that Carson uses to characterize the problems with pesticide use during her time? (Cite some examples of words or phrases.)

3. What side is CBS on? What evidence do you see in the video that CBS favored one side or the other? (Or, what evidence suggests that the network did not want to be seen as taking a side?)

4. As you watched the video, you heard Rachel Carson reading from *Silent Spring*. What elements of her characterization of the pesticide use (and its impacts) sounded familiar to you? Where did you learn this information, before seeing the video?

5. What do you think about pesticide use today? What do most Americans think?

6. What evidence have you seen for one of the show's arguments winning?

7. What about the other side? Do people still support that argument?

Part Two

Click through the timeline, and read each page carefully. Then answer the questions below.

1. Where does the publication of *Silent Spring* appear on the EPA History timeline? What does this fact suggest about the role of Rachel Carson in the history of the Environmental Protection Agency?

2. How does the time line provide more in-depth information about each of its events?

3. What did you learn about Rachel Carson's impact on environmentalism, using the method described in you answer above?

4. According to the timeline, how long did it take the EPA to ban the use of DDT, as Rachel Carson urged the government to do?

5. What other pesticides have been banned by the EPA since the ban on DDT?

6. Overall, what evidence does the time line provide for claims that Rachel Carson started the movement to protect the environment?

Part Three

A. Write a brief summary each of the sources you read, explaining how each source helps answer the question: *Did Rachel Carson start the American environmentalist movement?*

Source 1 Title:

Source 1 Summary:

Source 2 Title:

Source 2 Summary:

Source 3 Title:

Source 3 Summary:

B. Overall, how did your review of these sources change or add to your understanding of Rachel Carson's role in the environmentalist movement?