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Quiz tests knowledge on population, resource issues



I received the following "Non-trivial Earth Day Quiz" on population and resource issues in the mail this week. Because Earth Day is approaching, I thought I'd pass it along. I purposefully omitted the answers in hope that readers will circle their answers, tear out the column and mail it to me at the address below. I'll tally the results and print them along with the answers and sources in a couple of weeks.

1. What is the approximate world population in 1994? (a) 5.5 million (b) 3.5 billion (c) 5.6 billion (d) 1.5 billion

2. What is the approximate population of the United States in 1994? (a) 259 million (b) 123 million (c) 550 million

3. At the current growth rate of 1.7 percent, how long will it take the current world population to double? (a) 100 years (b) 42 years (c) 500 years

4. What percentage of prescription drugs dispensed by U.S. pharmacies have active ingredients derived from plants, animals or microorganisms from rain forests? (a) 5 percent (b) 75 percent (c) 40 percent

5. How many of the world's children die each year from malnutrition and treatable diseases? (a) 4.5 million (b) 8 million (c) 13 million

6. If all of the estimated 800,000 U.S. lawyers switched to paper that was 50 percent recycled, how many trees and how much water would be saved each year? (a) 2 million trees and 8 million gallons of water (b) 10 million trees and 50 million gallons of water (c) 5 million trees and 2 billion gallons of water

7. Because of our enormous consumption of resources, 2.5 million people in the United States have the environmental impact of how many people in India? (a) 50 million (b) 25 million (c) 75 million (d) 83 million

8. In fiscal 1994, the U.S. government will spend \$392 million on international population assistance. How long does it take the Pentagon to spend this amount? (a) one hour (b) one day (c) one week (d) one month

9. It took about 3 million years for human population to reach 500 million. At current rates, how long does it take to add 500 million people? (a)

less than 500 years (b) less than 60 years (c) less than 10 years (d) less than six years

10. One acre of prime farm land can produce 20,000 pounds of apples, 40,000 pounds of potatoes or how many pounds of beef? (a) 250 pounds (b) 1,000 pounds (c) 500 pounds (d) 10,000 pounds

11. The \$5 billion Americans spend each year on special diets to lose weight is what percentage of the money needed to make family planning services available worldwide for all who desire them? (a) 10 percent (b) 27 percent (c) 50 percent

12. Today, out of the roughly 93 million Americans who commute to work by car, how many drive to work alone? (a) 45 million (b) 53 million (c) 70 million (d) 90 million

13. Women earn 10 percent of the world's income and own 1 percent of the world's property. They perform what percentage of the world's work? (a) 66 percent (b) 33 percent (c) 13 percent

The Earth Day Conference sponsored by the Earth Day Coalition and the city of Columbia is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. tomorrow in the MU Arts and Science Building. The conference is free. Call 875-0539 for more details.

In addition to your answers, if you have a suggestion for a column, a gripe, a success story or whatever, write it down and send it to me, care of the Columbia Daily Tribune.