

# Wisconsin

**Fifth Grade**

# Environmental Survey



Support provided by:

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Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction  
Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education  
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

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# INSTRUCTIONS

Mark your answers on the answer sheet. Use a #2 pencil to darken the circle you choose. Do not make marks outside the circle.

A correctly filled circle:  Incorrectly filled circles: 

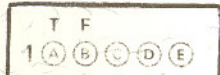
This survey has four parts.

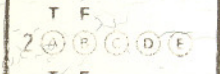
**Part One** asks you for some information about yourself. Fill in the circle on your answer sheet for the letter of the answer that most closely matches what you would say.


**Part Two** asks you what you think about some statements. There are no right or wrong answers. An example might be: "I spend too much time in school."

- If you strongly agree with the statement . . . . . fill in circle **A** (strongly agree)
- If you agree with the statement . . . . . fill in circle **B** (agree)
- If you don't care how long the school day is . . . fill in circle **C** (no opinion)
- If you disagree with the statement . . . . . fill in circle **D** (disagree)
- If you strongly disagree with the statement . . . fill in circle **E** (strongly disagree)

## Practice:

1. Spicy foods are better than sweet foods. 

2. It is important to make my bed every morning. 

3. Summer vacation should be longer. 

**Part Three** asks what you do. Again, there are no right or wrong answers. Be honest. An example might be: "I walk to school."

- If you always walk to school . . . . . fill in circle **A** (always)
- If you almost always walk to school . . . . . fill in circle **B** (almost always)
- If you sometimes walk to school . . . . . fill in circle **C** (sometimes)
- If you almost never walk to school . . . . . fill in circle **D** (almost never)
- If you never walk to school . . . . . fill in circle **E** (never)

**Practice:**

1. I eat all of my lunch.
2. I put off doing my homework.
3. I drink milk at the evening meal

|   |     |     |     |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|   | T   | F   |     |     |     |
| 1 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) |
|   | T   | F   |     |     |     |
| 2 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) |
|   | T   | F   |     |     |     |
| 3 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) |
|   | T   |     |     |     |     |

**Part Four** asks about what you know. Choose the **best** answer for each question. Notice that there are **four** choices: A, B, C, and D.

**Practice:**

1. Wisconsin is \_\_\_\_\_ of Canada.
  - a. east
  - b. west
  - c. north
  - d. south

|   |     |     |     |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|   | T   | F   |     |     |     |
| 1 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) |
|   | T   | F   |     |     |     |
| 2 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) |
|   | T   | F   |     |     |     |
| 3 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) |
|   | T   | F   |     |     |     |

2. Which of the following are usually the warmest months in Wisconsin?
  - a. April and May
  - b. July and August
  - c. September and October
  - d. October and November
3. In the American Revolutionary War the colonists fought against:
  - a. Spain.
  - b. Russia.
  - c. France.
  - d. England.

**Do not rush. You are likely to finish the survey in less than the time allowed.**

## Part One

**Instructions for Part One:** Fill in the circle on your answer sheet for the letter of the answer that is most like your answer to each of the following questions.

1. What is your gender?
  - a) female
  - b) male
  
2. Compared to other subjects you study, how do you feel about studying environmental topics?
  - a) less interested
  - b) about the same
  - c) more interested
  
3. Compared with other students your age, how well do you think you understand problems related to the environment?
  - a) above average
  - b) average
  - c) below average
  
4. What **one** thing has contributed **most** to your understanding of the environment and environmental problems? (choose only **one** answer)
  - a) school
  - b) books, newspapers, or magazines I have read on my own.
  - c) friends or family members (including parents)
  - d) field trips, special programs or activities such as clubs, scouting or 4H
  - e) television programs

## Part Two

**Instructions for Part Two:** These questions ask what you think. Be honest. There are no right or wrong answers. Read each question carefully. Fill in the circle on your answer sheet that is closest to what you think.

strongly  
agree  
(a)

agree  
(b)

no opinion  
(c)

disagree  
(d)

strongly  
disagree  
(e)

5. More money should be spent solving environmental problems.
6. I want to spend more time learning about the environment.
7. More money should be spent teaching people about the environment and its problems.
8. My school should have more lessons about the environment.
9. I would be interested in joining a club that tries to protect the environment.
10. I would be willing to change my habits if it helped solve pollution problems.
11. If a car makes too much air pollution no one should be allowed to drive it.
12. How I travel to school each day is important because my energy use affects the environment.
13. It is okay if a little water gets polluted because there is plenty of water.
14. It is okay for our school to make the playground larger, even if it means destroying some endangered plants.
15. The government should encourage people to have cars that are energy efficient.
16. To save energy, I am willing to watch one hour less of television per day.
17. I am concerned about how large the human population is becoming.
18. It bothers me to throw an aluminum can in the trash.
19. It is a waste of time to work to solve environmental problems.

## Part Two (continued)

strongly  
agree  
(a)

agree  
(b)

no opinion  
(c)

disagree  
(d)

strongly  
disagree  
(e)

20. When I have done something that harms the environment there's very little I can do to make it right.
21. Things I do have no effect on the quality of the environment.
22. Most of the time an adult or my parents(s) will listen to what I have to say about the environment.
23. I don't worry about turning out the lights in an empty classroom because the school pays for the electricity.
24. It is too hard to solve environmental problems.
25. As long as other people are driving big cars, my family should be able to drive one too.
26. Environmental problems will only be solved when people like me change the way we live.

## Part Three

**Instructions for Part Three:** The next questions ask about things you do. Be honest. There are no right or wrong answers. Fill in the circle on your answer sheet that is closest to what you do.

almost always  
( a )

often  
( b )

sometimes  
( c )

almost never  
( d )

never  
( e )

27. I try to save water.
28. I turn off lights without being asked.
29. I turn the water off while brushing my teeth.
30. I try to eat at places that use little packaging.
31. I tell people about using recycled paper.
32. I have written a letter to someone suggesting a solution to an environmental problem.
33. I ask people to recycle.
34. I ask someone not to buy something if I think it harms the environment.
35. I ask someone to buy recycled paper.
36. I ask people not to litter.
37. I ask other people to do some things because they are good for the environment.
38. I have encouraged a parent or another adult to vote.
39. I pick up litter without being asked.
40. I try to save electricity.

## Part Four

**Instructions for Part Four:** These questions ask about what you know. Read each question carefully. Fill in the circle representing the best answer on your answer sheet.

41. A flower with colorful petals and a sweet smell would most likely be pollinated by:
- a) rain.
  - b) wind.
  - c) a gardener.
  - d) insects.
42. A small bird eats a butterfly that had been eating nectar from a flower. Then the bird is eaten by a hawk. This is an example of:
- a) mutualism.
  - b) a food chain.
  - c) competition.
  - d) survival of the fittest.
43. Which of the following is a predator-prey relationship?
- a) A flea bites a dog.
  - b) A robin eats a worm.
  - c) A caterpillar eats a leaf.
  - d) A deer eats grass that has a grasshopper on it.
44. A fox dies. This creates a problem for:
- a) the fleas that were drinking the fox's blood.
  - b) a rabbit that has a nest nearby.
  - c) another fox whose territory is nearby.
  - d) an animal that hunts in the same area that the fox did.



45. Termites eat only wood; however, they cannot digest it. Tiny organisms that only live in termites' stomach and intestine digest the wood. The relationship the tiny organisms and the termites have is helpful to:

- a) both.
- b) one and harmful to the other.
- c) one and has no effect on the other.
- d) neither.

46. A cat and a snake are hunting the same mouse. What is the relationship between the cat and the snake?

- a) One is using the other but not harming it.
- b) They are competing with each other.
- c) They are helping each other.
- d) One is trying to eat the other one.

47. If there were no decomposers on Earth, what would happen?

- a) Dead plants and animals wouldn't become part of the soil.
- b) Many human diseases would disappear.
- c) More meat would be available for humans to eat.
- d) Little would change.

48. A grassland turns into a desert over a short period of time. What will most likely happen to the animals that lived in the grassland?

- a) Most will leave or die.
- b) They would have more babies to survive.
- c) Those that eat grass would adapt to new food.
- d) Many will pass on traits that will help their young to survive in the desert.

49. Some people started a program in a national forest to protect deer. They started killing wolves. Ten years later there were no wolves in the forest. For a few years after the wolves were gone there were many more deer than there had ever been. Then suddenly there were almost no deer.

The people who wanted to protect the deer didn't know that:

- a) deer only live to be a few years old.
- b) fires would kill so many deer.
- c) other animals would eat so much of the deer's food.
- d) the deer would eat all of the food and then many would starve.

50. The original source of energy for almost all living things is:
- a) the sun.
  - b) water.
  - c) the soil.
  - d) plants.
51. A rabbit eats some corn. The energy from the corn goes into the rabbit. The next day a fox eats the rabbit. The fox gets very little of the energy that was in the corn. Why?
- a) A fox can't digest corn.
  - b) The rabbit has already digested the corn.
  - c) Corn doesn't have much energy.
  - d) Most of the corn's energy was used by the rabbit.
52. Most of the oxygen in the atmosphere comes from:
- a) insects.
  - b) plants.
  - c) the soil.
  - d) the sun.
53. Which of the following would give humans the most food energy from 1,000 pounds of plants? Assume the plant are good for people to eat.
- a) Feed the plants to insects, feed the insects to fish, then humans eat the fish.
  - b) Humans eat the plants.
  - c) Feed the plants to cattle then humans eat the cattle.
  - d) Feed the plants to fish then humans eat the fish.
54. After living things die they decompose. As a result of this process nutrients are:
- a) recycled.
  - b) destroyed.
  - c) unavailable.
  - d) evaporated.

55. Which of the following is a part of the water cycle?
- a) Erosion.
  - b) Ocean tides.
  - c) Evaporation.
  - d) Decomposition.
56. A pollutant gets into an ecosystem and harms insects. How might this affect the ecosystem?
- a) Plants are not harmed, so it doesn't affect the ecosystem.
  - b) It harms part of the ecosystem, so it may affect other parts of the ecosystem.
  - c) It kills insects, so other animals in the ecosystem stay healthy.
  - d) Most animals eat plants so it doesn't affect the ecosystem much.
57. Many people believe that the Earth's average temperature is changing. They say that one important cause of this change is:
- a) using fuels like gasoline.
  - b) the sun is moving closer to the earth.
  - c) acid rain.
  - d) rising ocean levels.
58. The layer of ozone in the Earth's atmosphere has developed holes because:
- a) some kinds of air pollution break down ozone.
  - b) the sun's rays have become more powerful.
  - c) the Earth's average temperature is changing.
  - d) acid rain is breaking down ozone.
59. Acid rain is a problem because:
- a) it may harm plants by affecting their leaves and changing the soil they grow in.
  - b) it may break down the layer of ozone in the Earth's atmosphere.
  - c) people may have to stay indoors when it's raining.
  - d) it may cause a slow change in the Earth's temperature.

60. One suggested advantage of using nuclear power plants instead of coal or oil for energy production is:
- a) Nuclear power plants are not expensive to build.
  - b) The waste products are easy to store.
  - c) They are totally safe.
  - d) There is less air pollution.
61. Which of the following would be most likely to cause soil pollution?
- a) Putting too much fertilizer on lawns.
  - b) Organic gardening.
  - c) Letting dead plants become part of the soil.
  - d) Cutting lawns so short that the grass dies.
62. Landfills may contribute to groundwater pollution when:
- a) people put things that could be recycled in the garbage.
  - b) chemicals leak out of the landfill.
  - c) it rains.
  - d) people put biodegradable materials into the garbage.
63. The pollution of ocean water is a serious problem because:
- a) ships have trouble traveling through polluted water.
  - b) the oceans contain salt water.
  - c) ocean tides are affected.
  - d) oceans contain many different kinds of plants and animal life.
64. A polluted river:
- a) is easy to clean up.
  - b) will always be polluted if it runs through large cities.
  - c) can be cleaned up with a great deal of work and cooperation by many people.
  - d) is the responsibility of only the people living and working near its banks.

65. Keeping oceans unpolluted is made harder by the:
- a) salt in ocean water.
  - b) wide variety of plants and animals living in the oceans.
  - c) wide variety of temperatures and weather that the oceans have.
  - d) number of countries that use the oceans.
66. Cutting down forests for lumber or farming often conflicts with:
- a) creating jobs.
  - b) building homes for people.
  - c) the needs of forest plants and animals.
  - d) keeping land open for roads.
67. Some animals were common in parts of Wisconsin 100 years ago. Now they are endangered. This is most likely because:
- a) other animals chased them out or ate them.
  - b) the weather changed.
  - c) people made too many changes in the animal's habitat.
  - d) the animals or plants they ate died off.
68. If wild animal species need a place to live for the next 300 years it would be best to:
- a) put them in a zoo where they can be cared for and protected.
  - b) put them in parks where they can be protected and still be free.
  - c) let them live on land that people don't want to use.
  - d) save large areas of the animals' natural habitat.
69. Humans use energy from coal and oil by burning them. Another source of energy for humans is:
- a) cold water.
  - b) a well insulated home.
  - c) a furnace.
  - d) the sun.

70. Which type of energy will be available for human use for the longest period of time?

- a) Oil.
- b) Coal.
- c) Nuclear energy.
- d) Solar energy.

71. One energy source for humans is nuclear energy. However, people disagree about:

- a) storing nuclear waste for thousands of years.
- b) finding the materials needed to produce nuclear energy.
- c) finding people to work in the nuclear power plants.
- d) changing nuclear energy into electricity.

72. Why do people continue using energy sources that cannot be quickly replaced?

- a) Those energy sources are non-renewable.
- b) The supply of energy is so large that it won't run out.
- c) When those energy sources run out scientists will have another one for people to use.
- d) Those energy sources are more convenient than other sources.

73. Which energy source do scientists think will be in short supply in 300 years?

- a) The wind.
- b) Oil.
- c) Water flowing over a dam.
- d) The sun.

74. Fewer resources are wasted when shoppers buy things that:

- a) are in containers that can be used again.
- b) have a label saying they are made from natural products.
- c) are wrapped separately so they stay clean and new looking.
- d) are disposable.

75. The population of humans on the Earth is:
- a) the same as it was 10 years ago.
  - b) getting smaller.
  - c) growing larger.
  - d) not changing.
76. Countries with small populations may be a part of the world's resource problems if they:
- a) allow more people to leave their country.
  - b) produce too much plant waste.
  - c) do not have enough children.
  - d) use more resources than they need.
77. In the long term, which of the following is the **best** way to make the amount of garbage going to landfills smaller?
- a) Reusing things before we throw them away.
  - b) Reducing the amount of things we use.
  - c) Recycling as much as possible.
  - d) Burning as much garbage as possible.
78. Which of the following is hazardous waste?
- a) broken glass.
  - b) laundry detergent.
  - c) batteries.
  - d) decomposing plants.
79. The best way to find out how the people in your town feel about solid waste would be to:
- a) read the newspaper and watch the news.
  - b) talk to your friends.
  - c) do a survey of a large number of people.
  - d) talk to the teachers in your school.

**This is the end of the survey. Thank you for your participation!**