

Assessments

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Document-Based Question: *Changing Public Attitudes Toward DDT*

Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs, and a conclusion. Use evidence from at least three documents in your essay. Support your response with relevant facts, examples, and details. Include additional outside information.

Discuss how public knowledge and attitudes about DDT have changed over time.

In your essay:

- Explain how public attitudes toward the chemical have changed over time.
- Reference public knowledge of the costs and benefits of DDT.
- Incorporate information from at least three of the documents.
- Explain how media reflects public attitudes and perspectives.
- Incorporate relevant outside information.
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples and details.
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization that includes an introduction and conclusion that goes beyond a restatement of the theme.

Document #1: 1949
*Webster's Collegiate
Dictionary*

Document #2: 2001
*American Heritage
Dictionary*

Document #3: 1947 U.S. Dept of
Agriculture Pamphlet "DDT For
Control of Household Pests"

DDT:
A colorless,
odorless, water-
insoluble crystalline
insecticide used
especially against
body lice,
houseflies,
mosquitoes and
agricultural pests.

DDT:
An insecticide
banned since 1972
from U.S.
agricultural use
for its persistent
toxicity in the
environment.



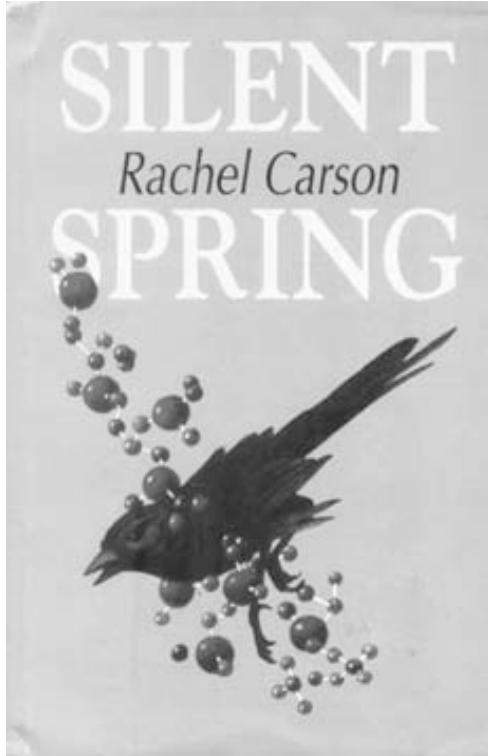
**DDT... FOR CONTROL
OF HOUSEHOLD PESTS**



Prepared by the
Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine
Agricultural Research Administration
United States Department of Agriculture, and
the United States Public Health Service
Federal Security Agency
Washington, D. C. Issued March 1947



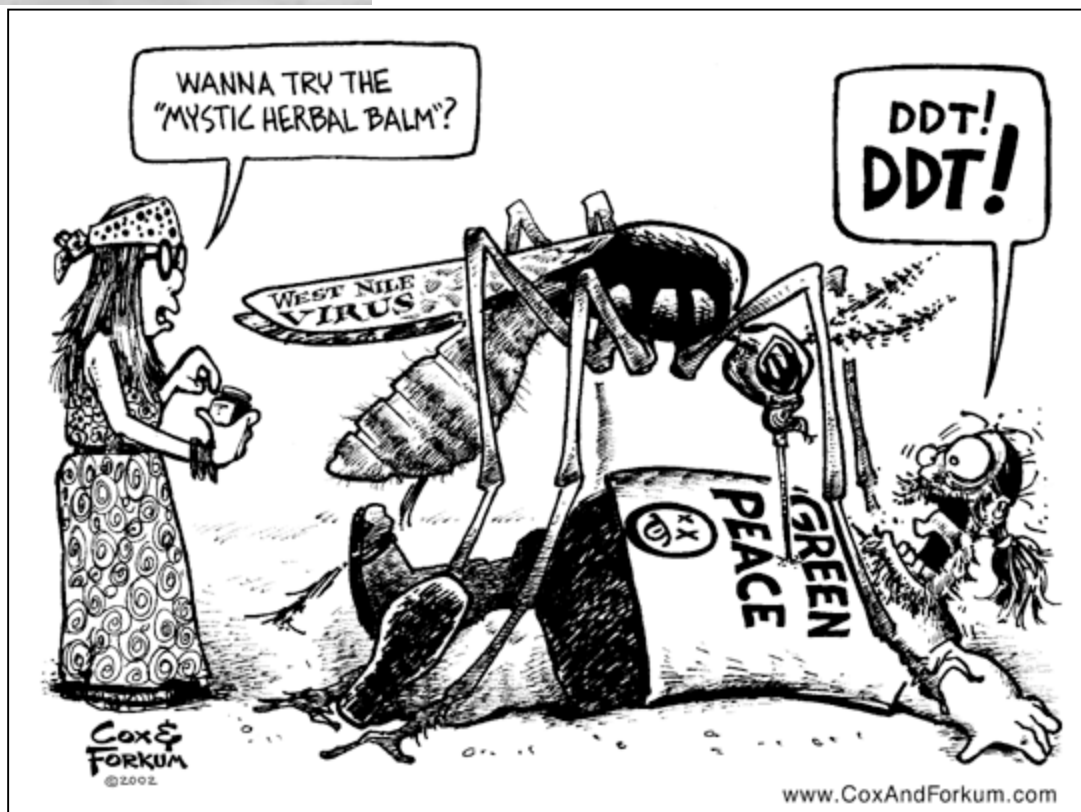
Document #4: 1962
Book Cover
Silent Spring by Rachel Carson



Document #5: Editorial Cartoonist:
Dan Rosandich



Document #6: 2001
Cartoon by Cox & Forkum





Short Answer Questions

Changing Public Attitudes Towards DDT

NAME _____ DATE _____

1. According to documents #1 and #2, what was the primary use for DDT when it was first released to the public?

2. What new information about DDT and its environmental impact was revealed in Rachel Carson's 1962 book, *Silent Spring* (Document #4)?

3. Using documents #3 and #5 as examples, explain the impact of *Silent Spring* on public attitudes toward DDT.

4. Using Document #6 as an example, describe the cartoonists' point of view regarding the public health impact of the ban on DDT.

