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THE "QUIET
SPRING" AND THE
AWAKENING OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
AWARENESS



AMERICAN ZOOLOGIST AND
BIOLOGIST, WHOSE BOOK,
"SILENT SPRING", IS
CONSIDERED VERY
IMPORTANT FOR THE
AWAKENING OF THE
ECOLOGICAL MOVEMENT

Ever since the mid-1940s, when she was still relatively unknown, Carson has become concerned about the use of recently discovered pesticides, especially DDT. "The more I learned about pesticide use, the more shocked I became," Carson wrote later, explaining her decision to begin research into her most famous work, *The Silent Spring*. "What I discovered was that everything that meant the most to me as a naturalist was in jeopardy and that nothing I could do would be more important. In Carson's book, he explores the topic of ecological interconnectedness: although a pesticide is directed against the elimination of an organism, its effects are felt throughout the food chain, and what was intended to poison an insect ends up poisoning larger animals and humans.



The four-year work on "Silent Spring" began with a letter from a Massachusetts aviary guard who was destroyed by aerial spraying of DDT. In the letter, he asked Carson to use his influence with state authorities to launch an investigation into the use of pesticides. Carson decided it would be more effective to raise the issue through a popular magazine. However, the publishers were not interested, so a book was later published on the project. The tycoons of the chemical industry greeted her with a knife, but her views were increasingly accepted by the public. Scientific awards also came. In 1963, Carson was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and received many other honors and awards, including the Odibon and Cullen Medals of the American Geographical Society. Carson, who was already seriously ill with breast cancer, testified before the Senate inquiry committee. Later, the investigation would lead to a ban on DDT, but Carson did not see it. He died on April 14, 1964. In 1980 he posthumously received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civic recognition in the United States.



Rachel Carson was born and raised on a farm in Pennsylvania. Her mother, Maria Fraser McLean, was a teacher and well educated. Rachel Carson's father, Robert Carden, was a salesman who was often unsuccessful. She dreamed of becoming a writer, and as a child, wrote stories about animals and birds. In 1962, Silent Spring was published. Carefully researched for more than 4 years, the book documents the dangers of pesticides and herbicides. It showed the long-term presence of toxic chemicals in water and on land and the presence of DDT even in breast milk, as well as a threat to other creatures, especially songbirds. In 1964, Carson died of cancer in Maryland. Shortly before she died, she was elected to the American Academy of Sciences and Arts.