

Examples of Environmental Science Facts (Content)

- 1.) Seventy-one percent (71%) of the earth's surface is covered by water.
- 2.) In 2006, 1,260 species were listed as endangered.
- 3.) Most fish cannot survive in water with a pH of less than 4.5.
- 4.) The "O" horizon or surface litter layer is mostly composed of partially decomposed leaves, twigs, animal waste, fungi, and other organic materials.
- 5.) Ozone (O₃) absorbs harmful UV rays and therefore helps protect us from sunburn, skin cancer, and cataracts.
- 6.) The Aral Sea lost 90% of its water, and its salinity has tripled since 1961 due to a large-scale water diversion project.
- 7.) Carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere have increased by more than 30% in the last 100 years to the highest levels in the last 200,000 years.
- 8.) Eleven (11) samples at Carson Beach exceeded the Massachusetts Enterococci Bacterial water quality standard since July 3, 2007.

Critical thinking in Environmental Science

- 1.) How did living organisms lead to the formation of the ozone layer?
- 2.) How can mankind reduce the levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere?
- 3.) Design a sampling protocol to demonstrate that bacterial water quality at Carson Beach is poor following a rain event.
- 4.) Design an experiment whose results would support the finding that fish cannot survive at pH less than 4.5.
- 5.) What do you think are the three greatest threats to aquatic biodiversity?
- 6.) Which is a more sustainable ecosystem—the Neponset River Watershed or Columbia Point—and why?