

**Did You Know...?**

**CORRELATED TO STATE AND NATIONAL STANDARDS**

# Rachel Carson



**Excellent Ecologist**

**By Carole Marsh**

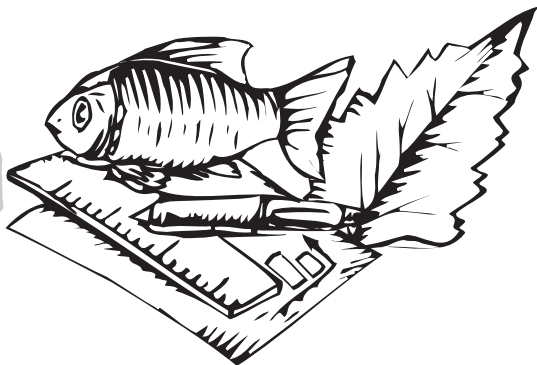









**1000 READERS™**

**#152**







# Rachel Carson

Scientist, Writer,  
and Naturalist



 Rachel Carson was born in  
 Pennsylvania in 1907. Rachel loved the  
 outdoors. It was her playground. She  
 loved books and wanted to  
 be a writer. Rachel's first  
 article was published in a  
 magazine at the age of 10!

Rachel  
grew up on a  
farm with a  
brother and a  
sister.

 Rachel's mother took her on walks  
 in the woods. Rachel learned about  
 nature. She saw Pennsylvania  
 changing. Rachel saw coal mines  
 taking the farmland and factories  
 polluting the fresh air. This made  
Rachel feel sad.



Rachel wanted to be a writer

Rachel went to the Pennsylvania College for Women and Johns Hopkins University.



when she went to college.

Her love of biology pushed her to study animals and the sea.

Rachel graduated from college. She continued to study sea life in graduate school. Rachel also wrote science articles for newspapers.

The Great Depression began. Rachel's family lost their farm and moved in with her. Rachel had to find a job to take care of her family. Because she was a woman, no one wanted to hire her!

Rachel's father died in 1935. Rachel's sister died a year later, and her children came to live with Rachel and her mother.

Rachel found a job writing for a radio station. She could use her writing skills and her love of science. Later, Rachel took a test for a job as a junior biologist. She made the





highest score and got the job with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service!


Rachel's boss saw that she was a good writer. He suggested she write an article for a magazine. Rachel did

Rachel's first book was *Under the Sea Wind*.

and it was printed! This article was the start of Rachel's first book.

Rachel was named editor in chief of the Fish and Wildlife Service. She published *The Sea Around Us* and became famous. Rachel was awarded many honors. She resigned from the government job to research and write.

A reader wrote Rachel that she had seen many birds dying. This reader thought these birds were accidentally sprayed with pesticides.



Airplanes were used to spray farmer's crops for insects.

The pesticide that was killing birds was called DDT.

Rachel was now determined to write a book about how pesticides were harming nature.

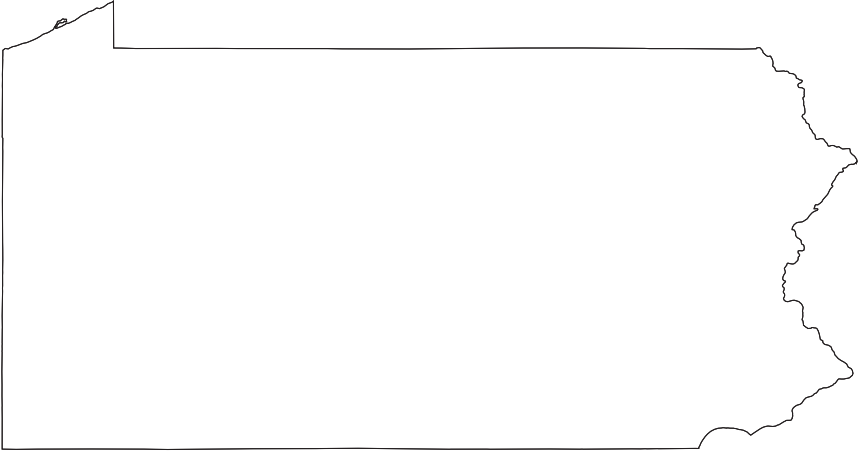
Rachel found that DDT was killing birds and changing the eggshells. The shells were too thin. They were breaking before the birds could hatch. And, DDT could also be causing cancer in humans! In 1962, the book, *Silent Spring*, was published.

The companies that made pesticides were angry. President John Kennedy had a committee investigate. The committee found that Rachel was right! Rachel Carson's book was the start of a safer world for nature and humans.

Rachel's mother and niece died while she was writing *Silent Spring*. While writing *Silent Spring*, Rachel became ill with cancer. She died two years later.



Color the picture of Pennsylvania.



Find the name of the city where Rachel was born by unscrambling the letters below.

\_\_\_\_\_

G E P I S A N L R D

\_\_\_\_\_, Pennsylvania

Circle the answer.

Rachel's favorite subject would have to be:

Art

Science

Math

Use the Word Bank to complete the sentence.

The Great Depression was a time in the \_\_\_\_\_ when there were few \_\_\_\_\_, it was hard to make \_\_\_\_\_, and many \_\_\_\_\_ went out of business.

WORD BANK

money United States companies jobs