

The Sea Around Us

Carson became interested in the ocean while in college. She spent one summer working at a marine lab. After college, she had a short radio program. It was called “Romance Under the Waters.” She taught about the strange world of the ocean.

Carson wrote three books about ocean life. People liked her books. She wrote about difficult science facts, but she made them interesting. Even someone who wasn’t a scientist could understand what she was writing about. It was important to her that people understand the underwater world.

While working for the government, Carson became worried about the oceans. She studied the use of **chemical pesticides**. They are chemicals used to kill bugs and insects. But if pesticides can kill pests, couldn’t they also hurt other living things? Carson suspected that pesticides harmed ocean animals. She knew she had to warn the public. They had to know about the dangers of pesticides.

← This farmer is spraying pesticides on his crop of flowers.

Rainwater runoff picks up → pesticides on land and leaves them in the ocean.



A Way with Words

Rachel Carson’s second book was her most popular of the time. It is called *The Sea Around Us*. It was published in 32 languages!

Top 100

TIME Magazine included Rachel Carson in its list of the 100 most influential people of the 20th Century.



Fish and Wildlife

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service was created in 1940. The service was started to protect the **environment** for both people and wildlife. It first studied why the fish population was declining. The goal was to solve the problem.

Rachel Carson was hired as one of the first female scientists there. She worked with others to study the effects of **DDT**. DDT is a type of pesticide. During this time, it was widely used to destroy pests. People didn't realize it was doing a lot of other damage, too.

← Sea lions bask on the rocks of Monterey Bay.

Important Work

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has more than 40,000 volunteers. They do over one million hours of work each year! Today, the Fish and Wildlife Service still tries to solve problems in the environment around the world.

Marine Biology

Many people think that marine biologists spend their days out at sea or playing with dolphins. That's only part of what they do. Only a very small number of people get to work directly with these animals.

Some marine biologists work with animals at zoos and aquariums. These places used to keep animals just for people to look at. Today, they are becoming more and more important in protecting animal life. They help teach people about animal issues. They also help animals that are in danger.

Working with animals isn't easy. Getting a good education about animals may be the best thing you can do to help them.

Marine scientists in the field tag a loggerhead turtle. →