

Objectives

- Assess the causes and effects of the environmental movement.
- Analyze why environmental protection became a controversial issue.



Terms and People

- **Rachel Carson** – wrote a landmark book, *Silent Spring*, which argued that human actions harm the environment
- **toxic waste** – poisonous byproducts of human activity
- **Earth Day** – a nationwide protest about environmental concerns on April 22, 1970
- **EPA** – the Environmental Protection agency, a federal agency established in 1970 to clean and protect the environment

Terms and People (continued)

- **Clean Air Act** – passed in 1970 to combat air pollution, including limiting emissions from cars and factories
- **Clean Water Act** – passed in 1973 to limit water pollution caused by industry and agriculture
- **Endangered Species Act** – passed in 1973 to protect at-risk plants and animals



What forces gave rise to the environmental movement, and what impact did it have?

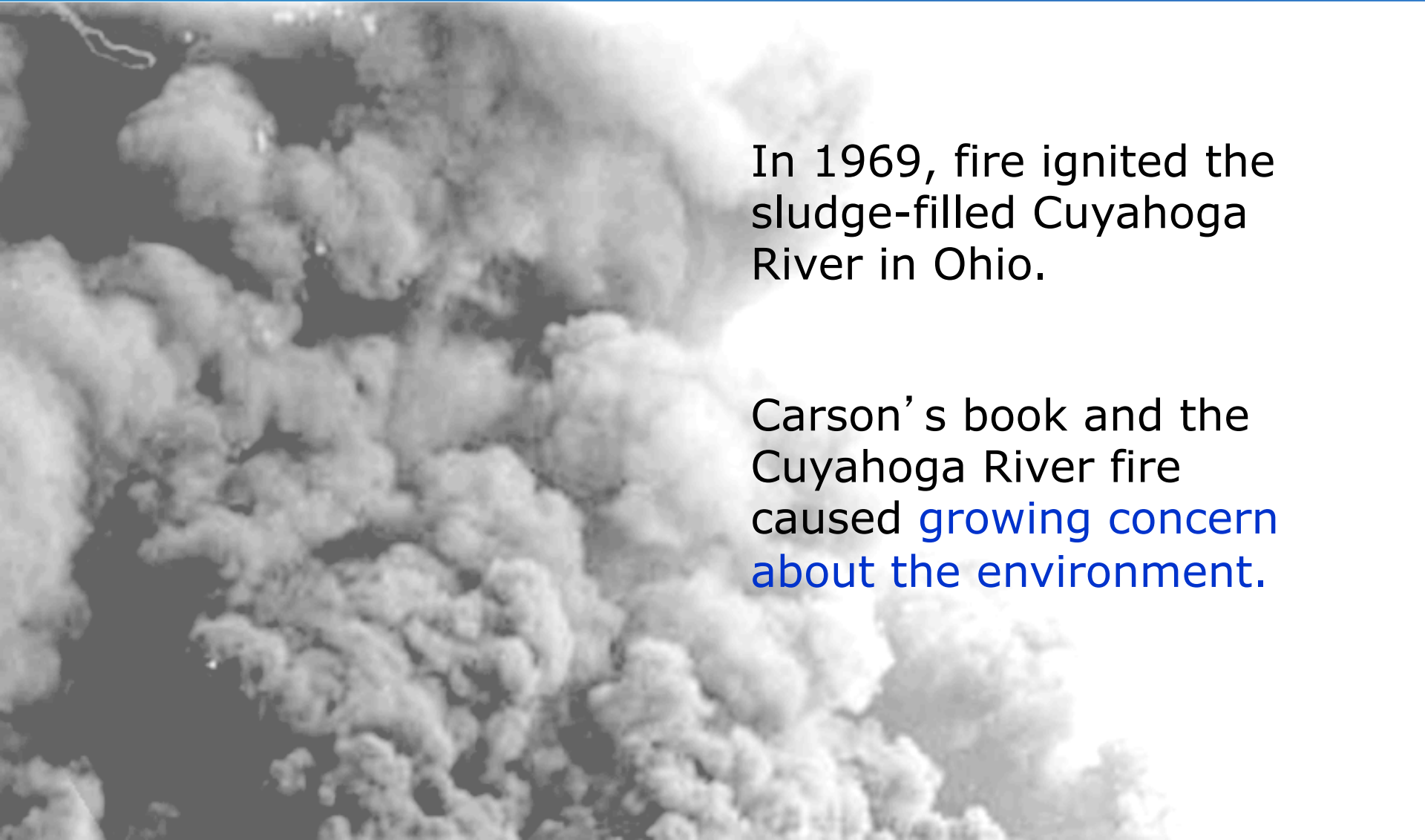
The rights revolution of the 1960s and 1970s extended to people's right to clean air and clean water.

Public awareness of environmental issues prompted debate about the government's role in environmental regulations.

In 1962, biologist **Rachel Carson** published a book about the deadly impact of pesticides on animals and the environment.

The impact of *Silent Spring* eventually forced Congress to ban the pesticide DDT.



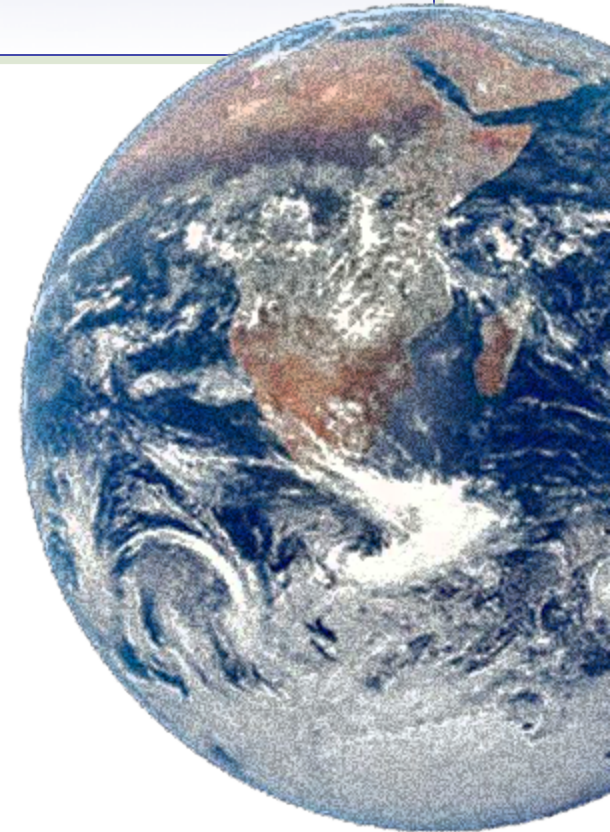


In 1969, fire ignited the sludge-filled Cuyahoga River in Ohio.

Carson's book and the Cuyahoga River fire caused **growing concern about the environment.**

Twenty million Americans participated in the first **Earth Day on April 22, 1970.**

Earth Day was a nationwide protest to **focus attention on environmental concerns** and to move this issue into the mainstream political arena.



President Nixon recognized the need to clean up the environment.

Environmental legislation in the 1970s created:

- the **Environmental Protection Agency**
- the **Clean Air Act**, the **Clean Water Act**, and the **Endangered Species Act**
- the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

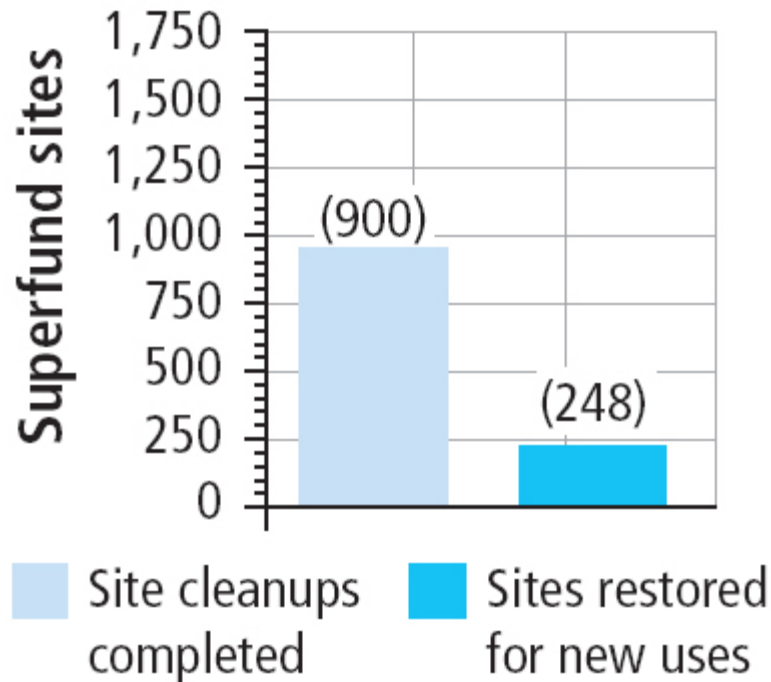
In the late 1970s investigators discovered **toxic wastes** in Love Canal, New York.



Residents of the area had unusually high rates of cancer and birth defects.

This contamination prompted Congress to establish a Superfund to clean up toxic waste.

Superfund Cleanup, 2004



The federal Superfund cleanup project continues in the twenty-first century.

In 1979, a nuclear accident occurred in Pennsylvania.



- A nuclear reactor at **Three Mile Island** malfunctioned, causing its core to start melting.
- Authorities declared a state of emergency because there was a possibility that the reactor would **release radioactive gas**.
- Authorities then **shut down the reactor**.

Emergency workers contained the accident.



President Carter and his wife toured the reactor to reassure people but **public concern grew.**

Most Americans opposed nuclear power plants so **the government stopped building them.**

**Some people
opposed
environmental
regulations.**

- Conservatives said the laws violated people's property rights.
- Industry leaders argued environmental regulations would limit businesses and jobs.

Americans were divided about what the government should do to protect the environment.

Section Review

QuickTake Quiz



Know It, Show It Quiz

