

The book *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson, is considered to be the reason for the global environmental movement. Throughout the book Carson describes the toxicity of pesticides and their negative impact on animals and humans. Carson explains how these toxins are affecting our ecosystems and damaging the environment, and a major fix could be for humans to switch to a safer alternative that can replace these dangerous chemicals. For example, finding a safer alternative to pesticides that are less harmful to our environment.

Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane also known as DDT, is a dangerous chemical used for insect and pesticide control. In Hinsdale, Illinois, Carson talks about the elm bark beetles that spread the Dutch elm disease. The people decided to spray pesticides so the beetles would stop affecting the trees. In effect to this, the pesticides started to kill the Robins and the other birds nested in trees. DDT is a highly toxic chemical that can affect animals and our environment.

Not only does DDT affect animals but it also has a great impact on humans. The author argues that spraying DDT isn't the only threat to our environment. "How could intelligent beings seek to control a few unwanted species by a method that contaminated the entire environment and brought the threat of disease and death even to their own kind?" (Carson pg.13). Humans repeatedly have exposure to chemicals that we have to live around everyday.

These Chemicals for example, DDT, methoxychlor, chlordane, heptachlor, and benzene hexachloride, affect the human body in all different ways. DDT is known to interfere with the energy production cycle of the body. Energy production is required with every bodily function like growth, respiration, and reproduction. Energy is an obvious factor humans need in order to survive. People commonly use poisonous chemicals at home in their kitchens. That sometimes ends up getting onto different foods, then those foods get digested. The author states, "Today we are concerned with a different kind of hazard that lurks in our environment—a hazard we ourselves have introduced into our modern world."(Carson pg.100). As humans we are an important part of the environment, and rely on the materials that are given to us from the earth. We have to give to the earth just as much as we take from it. To be able to not be affected by these chemicals, we need to be the ones that don't put these chemicals out in the earth.

Throughout the book Carson describes a bug's life as the "survival of the fittest." Carson writes the pesticides will kill the weaker bugs, therefore making some bugs lives close to extinction like the gypsy moths. It makes the stronger but more resistant and tolerable to the spray. This makes these bugs build an immunity to these sprays and end up making them more tolerable than some humans. As Carson slowly builds her case she believes if citizens see the dangers of chemicals used, they would act upon making a change. Everyone should become more educated on this topic so that there is no more risk to any more damage to be done to the earth and everything on it.