

QUICK QUIZ

Test Your Knowledge Of A Chemical Blessing

(NAPSA)—Carbon dioxide is not only a part of every breath you take—humans inhale oxygen and exhale CO₂—it also provides other surprising benefits to each of us. Take this little test to show how much you know about this amazing chemical.

1. Animals inhale oxygen and exhale CO₂. Plants do (a) the same (b) the opposite (c) neither?

2. More CO₂ in the atmosphere will probably mean (a) more (b) less (c) the same amount of plant growth?

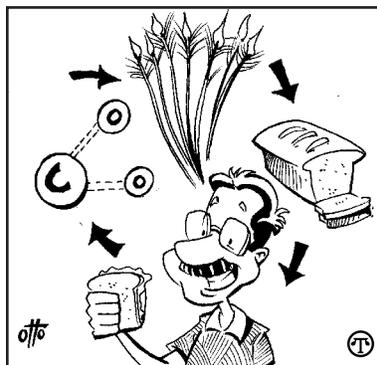
3. Extra CO₂ in the air encourages plants to use water (a) more (b) less (c) not at all efficiently?

4. Scientists say 9,000 years ago, agriculture sprung up all over the world. This corresponds with an (a) increase (b) decrease (c) absence of CO₂ in the atmosphere?

5. Some people believe CO₂ contributes to the earth's climate becoming warmer. For the past two decades, both satellite and balloon-borne instruments have found the global temperature change to be up, on average (a) 10° (b) 1° (c) 0°?

Answers

1. (b). Explains Sylvan H. Wittwer, professor emeritus, horticulture, Michigan State University, "CO₂ is a very important nutrient, perhaps the most important" for plants and the animals, including people, who eat plants. "Most modern plants evolved when CO₂ was higher in the atmosphere than it is today," adds Dr. Patrick J. Michaels, professor of environmental sciences at the University of Virginia. 2. (a) "Increasing the CO₂ level to two times what we have today would basically increase



plant yield," says Dr. C. Lee Campbell, professor of plant pathology at North Carolina State University. 3. (a) "The amount of water that's used by plants to produce the same amount of growth actually decreases with increased CO₂," says Dr. James Arthur Bunce, of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Climate Stress Laboratory. "This is important," adds Dr. Wittwer, "because water is going to become probably the most limiting natural resource as far as food production is concerned." 4. (a) Dr. Robert C. Balling, Director of the Office of Climatology of Arizona State University says: "Agriculture sprung up all over the world when CO₂ increased from about 200 parts per million to about 250 parts per million. It may be CO₂ is the reason we domesticated plants." 5. (c) report the experts at the Greening Earth Society. The scientists, business people and others in this organization believe humankind is a part of nature and that industrial evolution is good.

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