

AP Environmental Science Summer Reading Assignment

We will be reading Michael Pollan's book, The Omnivore's Dilemma. You'll be tested over the following content shortly after the start of school. Take notes in a **composition book (with bound pages and no rings)** as you read. You may use these notes during the assessment and the composition book will be used as your field notebook during the school year.

The book is divided into three main sections: Industrial Corn, Pastoral Grass, and Personal: The Forest. Consider the following questions as you read:

1. What is the "Omnivore's Dilemma"?
2. Why is the book divided into three main sections?
3. Know why each chapter is titled the way it is titled. For example, the first chapter is titled, "The Plant: Corn's Conquest." What did corn conquer? How did it accomplish this?
4. In addition to explaining the title of the chapter on corn, include what it means to be a C4 plant and how that relates to the title. (Chapter 1)
5. How is growing food on the farm different from the way it was 100 years ago? (Chapter 2)
6. Explain why corn is finding its way into so many products. (Chapter 6)
7. What different types of organics exist? Explain why there are so many types. (Chapter 9)
8. Define NPK. (Chapter 9)
9. Explain the relationships in this chapter with examples. (Chapter 10)
10. Explain the relationships in this chapter with examples. (Chapter 11)
11. How are Saladin's thoughts on processing animals different than the mainstream? (Chapter 12)
12. Explain the use of "Barcode" in the title. (Chapter 13)
13. Define speciesism. Explain how it relates in this chapter. (Chapter 17)
14. How has reading this book changed the way you think about food? What have you learned that surprised you the most?

Please let me know if you have any further questions on the assignment. I hope you will find the book interesting and informative. I feel strongly that it will help give you a better understanding of many important environmental issues, many of which are tied to our food choices.