

# HOW EARTH DAY BEGAN WITH MUSIC

Est. Time: 45 minutes

Subjects: Art, General Music, Social Studies

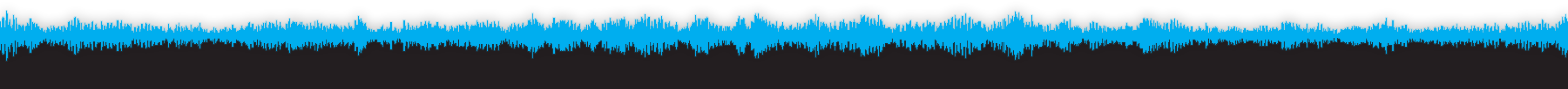
Age Range: Elementary & Middle School

See the full lesson [here!](#)

★ *TEACHROCK* ★



In this lesson you will:

- Find out about Rachel Carson and her important work
  - Understand why Carson was so concerned about DDT and other pesticides
  - Learn how Singer Songwriters of the 1960's helped to launch the first Earth Day
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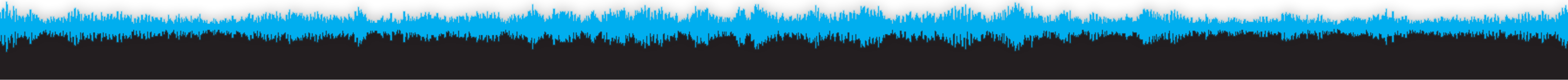


## RACHEL CARSON

Watch [this video](#) to learn about Rachel Carson.



Consider or ask a friend:

- Carson testified before Congress in 1963, but DDT was not banned until 1973, why do you think it took so long for the government to ban DDT?
  - How do you think Rachel Carson felt when Congress refused to act on her recommendations?
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As Rachel Carson was warning people about DDT, chemical companies were publishing the types of advertisements seen in **this image.**



**"DDT is good for me-e-e!"**

The great expectations held for DDT have been realized. During 1916, exhaustive scientific tests have shown that, when properly used, DDT kills a host of destructive insect pests, and is a benefactor of all humanity.

Pennsalt produces DDT and its products in all standard forms and is now one of the country's largest producers of this amazing insecticide. Today, everyone can enjoy added comfort, health and safety through the insect-killing powers of Pennsalt DDT products . . . and DDT is only one of Pennsalt's many chemical products which benefit industry, farm and home.



**GOOD FOR STEERS**—Beef grows meatier nowadays . . . for it's a scientific fact that—compared to untreated cattle—beef-steers gain up to 50 pounds extra when protected from horn flies and many other pests with DDT insecticides.



**KNOX FOR THE HOME**—helps to make healthier, more comfortable homes . . . protects your family from dangerous insect pests. Use Knox-Out DDT Powders and Sprays as directed . . . then watch the bugs "bite the dust!"



**KNOX FOR DAIRIES**—Up to 20% more milk . . . more butter . . . more cheese . . . tests prove greater milk production when dairy cows are protected from the annoyance of many insects with DDT insecticides like Knox-Out Stock and Barn Spray.



**GOOD FOR FRUITS**—Bigger apples, juicier fruits that are free from unsightly worms . . . all benefits resulting from DDT dusts and sprays.



**GOOD FOR ROW CROPS**—25 more barrels of potatoes per acre . . . actual DDT tests have shown crop increases like this! DDT dusts and sprays help truck farmers pass these gains along to you.



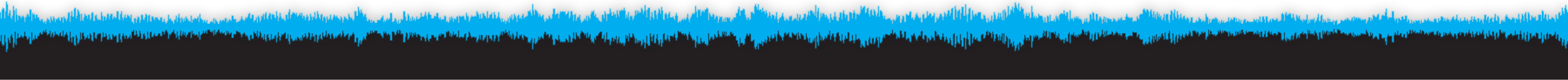
**KNOX FOR INDUSTRY**—Food processing plants, laundries, dry cleaning plants, hotels . . . dozens of industries gain effective bug control, more pleasant work conditions with Pennsalt DDT products.

**PENN SALT**  
CHEMICALS  
97 Years' Service to Industry • Farm • Home

**PENNSYLVANIA SALT MANUFACTURING COMPANY**  
WIDENER BUILDING, PHILADELPHIA 7, PA.



Consider or ask a friend:

- What are some things you notice about this advertisement?
  - Why do you think Chemical Companies were paying to put this ad in magazines and newspapers?
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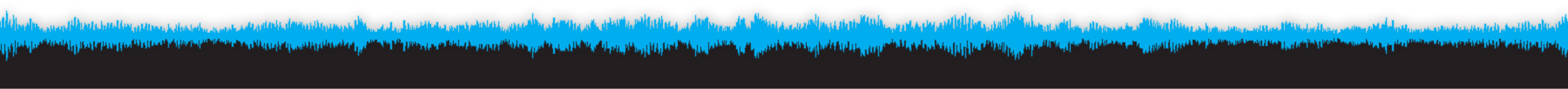


## WOODSTOCK


How Did Singer Songwriters Bring Greater Awareness to Rachel Carson's Work? Listen to Joni Mitchell's song "Woodstock" [here](#).



Consider or ask a friend:

- What do you think Mitchell means when she says that we have to get ourselves “back to the garden”?
  - How do you feel when you are in a natural space such as a garden, a park, or on a hiking trail?
  - Would you consider this an environmental song? Why or why not?
- 







Read **these song lyrics** and use a highlighter on your device to highlight all of the lyrics that talk about nature, the environment, pollution.

Hey, farmer farmer  
Put away that DDT now  
Give me spots on my apples  
But leave me the birds and the bees

Don't it always seem to go  
That you don't know what you've got  
Till it's gone  
They paved paradise  
And put up a parking lot






After reading the lyrics, you can listen to the songs here:

- Joni Mitchell: **Big Yellow Taxi** (1970)
  - Marvin Gaye: **Mercy Mercy Me (The Ecology)** (1968)
  - Neil Young: **After The Gold Rush** (1970)
  - James Taylor: **Carolina On My Mind** (1968)
  - Jackson Browne: **Before The Deluge** (1974)
- 



Consider or ask a friend:

- Did any of the songs you listened to stand out? Why?
  - In your opinion, which song carried the strongest message. Why?
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# SUMMARY

- Scientist Rachel Carson testified to Congress about DDT in 1963
- Singer-Songwriters promoted awareness of Environmental Issues with their songs on the late 1960s and early 1970s
- The 1st Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970
- DDT was finally banned in 1973



# BE CREATIVE

- Illustrate lyrics from the songs you heard on your own paper or using **these pages**.
- Write a poem about Earth Day
- Create an illustrated timeline that shows your understanding of Rachel Carson's work and how Singer Songwriters supported the Environmental Movement.



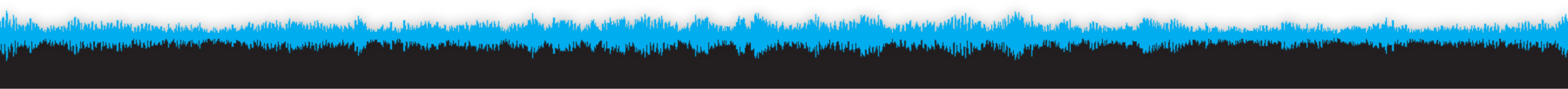
# BE CURIOUS

Using the internet, do more research on one of the songs that stood out to you in this lesson. See if you can find information on when, where, why, and even how the song was written.



# CONNECT

Share it with us! Either you or an adult in your life can share your song lyrics, poem, or illustrated timeline with TeachRock on **Instagram** or **Facebook**, email to **info@teachrock.org**, or Tweet it to **@TeachRock**





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