

**AP Environmental Science Summer Reading Project**  
**Due Monday, February 1, 2010**

**Title:** *The World Without Us*

**Author:** Alan Weisman

**Extent:** 320 pp

**Publisher:** Harper Collins Canada

**Publication Date:** 5 July 2007

**The Gist:** What would happen if human life disappeared from the planet tomorrow? How would nature subsume the complex infrastructure of our cities? How long would it take for human "debris" — our plastics and synthetics, our technologies, our untold volume of *garbage* — to wear away or be transformed? How would animal and plant populations fare without our impeding presence? And how about the ultimate question: Would all trace of human existence eventually disappear? Part science class, part history lesson, part cautionary tale, Alan Weisman's *The World Without Us* imagines the world without humans as an avenue both for considering the impact our existence has on the environment and for prompting us to bring the two into a better balance.

**Project:**

Read *The World Without Us* and create a timeline of changes that might occur and document the page where it states when these changes might occur. List fifteen (15) changes as noted in the book. Include a title page and a bibliography.

100 Points - Test Grade