

# Rachel Carson

Born: May 27, 1907,  
Springdale, PA;  
Died: April 14, 1964,  
Silver Spring, MD

**Rachel Carson** was an author whose book *Silent Spring* helped launch the environmental movement. She was trained as a Marine Biologist. In the late 1950s Carson observed the detrimental effects on the environment of synthetic pesticides, like DDT. In *Silent Spring* (published in September 1962) Carson accused the chemical industry of lying about these effects and public officials of accepting their claims unquestioningly. Her message was met with fierce opposition by chemical companies. But her writings spurred a reversal in national pesticide policy, led to a nationwide ban on DDT, and inspired the movement that led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency. Rachel Carson's writings put the word *Ecology* into the vernacular. *Silent Spring* was named one of the 25 greatest science books of all time!

