Bi 101

Lord of the Ants

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/nature/lord-ants.html>

**Answer the following questions as you view the film:**

1. Who is Dr. E.O. Wilson, and what area of biology is he best known for?
2. What two areas of biology has he significantly contributed to in his research?
3. What is “biophilia?
4. Describe the micro-world of the subterranean world AFTER watching the animation.
5. How did Dr. Wilson’s childhood influence his perspectives about biodiversity?
6. What event led to his disability? Identify his disability in your answer. Did this limit his ability to study science?
7. Why is he so enamored by ants?
8. What important invasive species did he study and become a specialist in?
9. List some of the countries that he has had the privilege to visit in his research.
10. How many species has he discovered?
11. What types of methods does he use to study his specimens? Add to this answer as you continue watching the film.
12. How has DNA influenced the study of entomology i. e. the study of insects?
13. What is the primary means of communication in ants?
14. Describe the experiment that Dr. Wilson used to demonstrate ant communication.
15. How are the chemicals that ants produced determined/code for ?
16. What is sociobiology? Why is this considered a controversial area of science?
17. How did parallels in Stuart Altman’s study on primates significantly contribute to understandings in sociobiology?
18. Why is altruism a paradox in animal behavior?
19. Why have some of Dr. Wilson’s theories in sociobiology drawn fire from critics?
20. What has become of this prominent scientist’s passion and greatest concern at the zenith of his career? What causes has he become an activist and spokesperson for in recent days?

For further information consult:

The Encyclopedia of Life at: [www.eol.org](http://www.eol.org)