



Case Two: An Ounce of Prevention!

Grades 3-7

Level 3: Agent

Play "Who wants to be an IPM Super Sleuth"

Directions: Answer the following questions. Write the letter of the correct answer in the space provided. When you're finished you can find the answer key at <http://www.ipminstitute.org/pdfquizzesanswers.pdf>.

1. The major reason wood in homes and other buildings begins to rot is: _____

- A. Old age
- B. Dry weather
- C. Moisture
- D. Carpenter ants
- E. Voodoo spells

HINT: Most pests need wood to soften before they can attack it.

2. Microbes, or microorganisms, are: _____

- A. Tiny organisms you need a microscope to see
- B. Better than your crobots
- C. Not pests
- D. Lights that attach to microphones
- E. Rarely found in homes

HINT: "Micro" means small.

3. What problems can microbes cause in houses and other buildings? _____

- A. Noise
- B. Sickness, smells, stains and wood rots
- C. Make doors swell so they don't shut
- D. High electricity bills
- E. Eat all of your food

HINT: Did you know that molds and mildews are caused by microbes?

Level 3 Quiz (continued)

4. This type of microbe is the one most responsible for wood rots: _____

- A. Fungi
- B. Bacteria
- C. Viruses
- D. Riboflavin
- E. Prion

HINT: Did you know that mushrooms are fungi?

5. Wood rot fungi usually enter buildings through infested wood, spores in the air and: _____

- A. On mushrooms from the store
- B. On the backs of small animals
- C. Contact with soil
- D. In the guts of termites
- E. The back door

HINT: Which would rot first, a board buried in dirt or one balancing on a rock?

6. The growth of wood rot fungi in infested wood can usually be stopped by: _____

- A. Dipping the wood in vinegar
- B. Brushing the wood with a toothbrush
- C. Ignoring it
- D. Not buying anymore mushrooms
- E. Fixing the moisture problem and drying out the wood

HINT: Some like it hot, fungi like it wet.

7. An early sign of a moisture problem is: _____

- A. Sneezing
- B. Discolored or peeling paint, or wood swelling
- C. All the mice moving out
- D. Dripping sounds
- E. Big puddles on the floor

HINT: Does paint stick to a wet surface? Does a sponge get bigger or smaller in water?

Level 3 Quiz (continued)

8. A solution for moisture problems in the basement, bathroom or other rooms is to use a:

- A. Mop at least once a month to clean up puddles
- B. Credit card to buy a new house
- C. Hose to wash away the mold
- D. Exhaust fan or dehumidifier to remove moisture
- E. Axe to remove the wet wood

HINT: Ventilation, or circulating air, can carry moisture out and away.

9. Wood that needs special protection against rot includes: _____

- A. Outdoor furniture and open decks
- B. Rafters in the attic and floor joists in the basement
- C. Docks and bridges
- D. Fence posts
- E. All of the above

HINT: Where is wood likely to stay damp or get wet often?

10. Alternatives to arsenic treatments to preserve wood include: _____

- A. Copper-treated wood
- B. Borate-treated wood
- C. Water repellents such as Thompson's Water Seal
- D. Building with non-wood materials including steel, plastic and "Trex" decking.
- E. All of the above

HINT: There are lots of alternatives to arsenic to preserve wood.

11. All fungi that attack wood look: _____

- A. Different and these differences can be used identify the fungus and choose the best control
- B. The same, seen one, you've seen 'em all
- C. Creepy
- D. Like the creature from the lost lagoon
- E. Greenish

HINT: Do all mushrooms look the same?