

ASSESSMENT QUIZ

THE TIME MACHINE

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

The questions on this quiz are drawn from two sources: the novel itself, and the reading companion that came with it, the Author, the Moment, the Real subject, and the Science. Some ask about what happens in the story; others ask about the ideas and the science the companion explains. Answer from both. For each multiple choice question, choose the single best answer.

01. How does the reader receive the Time Traveller's story?

- (A) He publishes a memoir near the end of his life
- (B) He recounts it aloud to guests at his home, and an unnamed narrator relays it
- (C) It is pieced together from diary pages found inside the machine
- (D) A journalist interviews him for a newspaper

02. In what year does the Time Traveller make his first long stop?

- (A) 12,203
- (B) 802,701
- (C) 1,000,000
- (D) 30,000,000

03. What are the two species the Traveller finds humanity has become?

- (A) The Eloi and the Morlocks
- (B) The Selenites and the Grand Lunar
- (C) The Beast Folk and the Sayer of the Law
- (D) The Martians and the Artilleryman

04. The Eloi are the descendants of which part of Victorian society?

- (A) The industrial working class
- (B) Rural farm laborers
- (C) The leisured upper class
- (D) The professional military

05. The Morlocks are the descendants of which part of Victorian society?

- (A) The landed aristocracy
- (B) The industrial laboring class
- (C) Merchants and shopkeepers
- (D) Scholars and scientists

06. What is the real relationship between the Morlocks and the Eloi?

- (A) They coexist peacefully and trade goods
- (B) The Eloi keep the Morlocks as servants
- (C) The Morlocks keep the world running and prey on the Eloi for food
- (D) They are locked in open, visible warfare

07. Which idea best explains the Eloi's softness and simplicity?

- (A) Punctuated equilibrium
- (B) Relaxed selection, where comfort removes the pressure that once maintained their traits
- (C) Genetic drift after a population bottleneck
- (D) Hybrid vigor

08. The Morlocks' pale skin and large, light-sensitive eyes are a clear case of:

- (A) Seasonal camouflage
- (B) Mimicry of another species
- (C) Sexual selection
- (D) Cave, or subterranean, adaptation

09. In the Traveller's vision of the deep future, the Earth is dying because:

- (A) The sun has already exploded
- (B) The planet has collided with another world
- (C) The sun has cooled to a dim red and the whole system is running down toward cold stillness
- (D) Volcanic activity has boiled the oceans away

10. In the novel's opening lecture, the Time Traveller argues that time is:

- (A) An illusion with no real existence
- (B) A fourth dimension, like length, breadth, and thickness
- (C) A river that can only ever flow one way
- (D) A closed loop that repeats without end

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SHORT ANSWER

Answer each question in three to five sentences.

The world of the Eloi and Morlocks inverts the class relations of Wells's own Britain. Explain the inversion, and then explain why the Traveller's instinctive sympathy for the Eloi over the Morlocks is part of what Wells is doing, not just a detail.

The Eloi's decline is a case of "relaxed selection," not a Lamarckian process. Explain the difference: why is it wrong to say comfort directly weakened the Eloi, and what actually happened to them across deep time?
