

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, its author biography, historical context, allegorical layer, and scientific payload. 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. Where do the Morlocks hide the Traveller's machine after he arrives?

- (A) At the bottom of the river
- (B) Inside the hollow base of the White Sphinx
- (C) Deep within the Palace of Green Porcelain
- (D) Down one of the ventilation wells

02. What does the Traveller carry back as proof of where he has been?

- (A) A photograph of the Eloi
- (B) A tool taken from a Morlock
- (C) Two strange withered flowers
- (D) A page torn from a future book

03. The great ruined building the Traveller explores turns out to be:

- (A) A cathedral
- (B) A palace where the Eloi once ruled
- (C) A museum, its exhibits decayed almost past recognition
- (D) A Morlock factory

04. Why are the Eloi terrified of the dark?

- (A) Wild animals hunt at night
- (B) The Morlocks come up after nightfall to take them
- (C) They cannot see without the sun and fear falling
- (D) An old religious superstition warns them off

05. What becomes of the Time Traveller at the end of the novel?

- (A) He settles down and never travels again
- (B) He dies on the terminal beach
- (C) He leaves on a second journey and never returns
- (D) He is killed by the Morlocks

06. Wells sides with neither species. What is he really condemning?

- (A) Industrial technology itself
- (B) The wall between the classes, rather than either class
- (C) The Eloi, for their laziness
- (D) The Morlocks, for their violence

07. In the opening lecture, how does the Traveller say time differs from length, breadth, and thickness?

- (A) It does not really exist at all
- (B) It runs faster than the other three
- (C) We cannot move through it freely; we are carried along it
- (D) It can be seen but never measured

08. The Morlocks' pale skin and large, sensitive eyes come from generations spent:

- (A) Underground, in near-total darkness
- (B) Laboring under a harsh sun
- (C) Swimming in cold underground rivers
- (D) Among the bright lights of the machines

09. There is a real physical problem with where the machine sits. What is it?

- (A) It slowly sinks into the ground across long spans of time
- (B) It stays fixed in space while the Earth races on, so it should surface in empty space
- (C) It cannot support the Traveller's weight over a long trip
- (D) It overheats whenever it travels too far

10. The novel's dying-Earth finale is a dramatization of which physical law?

- (A) Gravity
- (B) The second law of thermodynamics, energy running down toward cold
- (C) Natural selection
- (D) The conservation of mass

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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?
