

1. In Chapter 3, one definition of a crisis is given as well as several common characteristics of a crisis. Do you think the biological crisis caused by the Andromeda strain as described by the novel support or dispute the general description of a crisis that is presented? Explain using specific examples from the novel.
2. Explain the differences between a bacteria and a virus. Was the organism coded as the Andromeda strain classified as a bacteria or a virus? Explain using specific examples from the novel.
3. Why was a nuclear device for self-destruction of the research facility necessary?
4. Who were the four scientists that studied the Andromeda strain? Why specifically was each chosen for the study?
5. Describe two situations in the novel in which the scientific method was applied. Include in your descriptions how each illustrates the different steps of the scientific method.
6. The concepts of acidity and alkalinity proved to be central in understanding the Andromeda strain. Describe what you learned about the characteristics of acids and bases from the novel.
7. Define homeostasis. Describe an example of homeostasis that was included in the novel.
8. Explain Leavitt's "Rule of 48". Did this rule play a role in the situation that developed at the research facility? Explain.
9. In addition to the nuclear device that was rigged to the research facility, nuclear chemistry was also applied in the use of a radioactive isotope. Describe the isotope and how it was used. Give one example of how radioactive isotopes are actually used in medicine today.
10. What major error did each scientist make that prevented a more timely understanding of the Andromeda strain?
11. Describe the differences between a light microscope and an electron microscope. What are the pros and cons of each?
12. Define the term catalyst. How do enzymes act as catalysts?

13. One of the most difficult questions facing the scientists was how to “study a form of life unlike any you know”. What specifically made this a challenging undertaking?
14. Explain Hall’s “Highway Diagnosis”.
15. What moral dilemma did the scientists face concerning the destruction of the Andromeda strain?
16. Do you think the novel is an example of how man put too much confidence and faith in technology to solve his problems? Explain.
17. How and when did the Andromeda strain mutate as the novel progressed? Were these positive or negative mutations? Explain.
18. Describe how the safety precautions actually increased the potential for greater disaster. Do you think these problems could have been predicted? Explain.
19. Did you enjoy the novel? Explain why or why not.
20. If the novel were written today, how do you think it might have been different?