

## AP Environmental Science - Recommended Reading

- Abbey, Edward. ***Desert Solitaire***. University of Arizona Press, 1988.  
Author's account of his three seasons as a park ranger in Southeastern Utah.
- Bryson, Bill. ***A Short History of Nearly Everything***. Broadway, 2003.  
Nature and science writer Bill Bryson examines some of the mysteries of science, and attempts to understand not only what scientists know, but how they know it. Covers the creation of the universe, the size of the Earth, the origins of life and other topics.
- Cohen, Joel E. ***How Many People can the Earth Support?*** Norton, 1995.  
Discusses how many people the earth can support in terms of economic, physical, and environmental aspects.
- Deffeyes, Kenneth S. ***Beyond Oil: The View from Hubbert's Peak***. FS&G, 2005.  
Examines the possible production futures of fuels besides oil, arguing for alternatives such as coal and hydrogen to be developed before oil runs out instead of waiting based on calculations previously done by the author's colleague, M. King Hubbert.
- De Villiers, Marq. ***Windswept: The Story of Wind and Weather***. Walker, 2006.  
Wind's mystery and meaning -- Wind's great theatre -- The search for understanding -- Wind's intricate patterns -- The art of prediction -- The most furious gale -- An ill wind -- The technology of wind. Examines the impact on Earth of the wind, describing how it controls the weather and planet environment, shapes the landscape, and man's struggle to understand and control it.
- Diamond, Jared M. ***Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed***. 2005.  
Presents a comprehensive historical narrative that describes how and why ancient civilizations such as the Anasazi, Maya, and the Polynesian culture on Easter Island failed and fell into ruin and examines how lessons learned from the past can help in preserving the future.
- Ellis, Richard. ***On Thin Ice: The Changing World of the Polar Bear***. Knopf, 2009.  
Europeans "discover" the polar bear (and the bear discovers them) -- The great ice bear -- Polar bear nations -- The Eskimo and the polar bear -- Hunting the hunter -- In the zoo and the circus -- On the whiteness of the bear -- Global warming and the bear -- Is the polar bear doomed?. Discusses the dangers posed to polar bears by global warming--and the resulting diminished Arctic feeding grounds--while examining the land predator's hunting, mating, and hibernation habits and critiquing policies that fail to protect the creature's territory.
- Fine, Doug. ***Farewell, My Subaru: An Epic Adventure in Local Living***. Villard, c2008.  
The parking brake wake-up call -- A land like matzah -- Last exit to Wal-Mart -- Livestock shopping in the digital age -- How a former suburbanite can wake up as a full-time goat vet -- The carbon neutral patriot -- The ridiculously oversized American truck -- The kung pao smokescreen -- Diabetes for the earth -- Windmill surfing -- Modern snake charming -- Toxic turbulence -- Smiles, everyone : an on-site inspection of the Funky Butte Ranch -- The Funky Butte Ranch opens a chicken buffet -- Worse than Elmer Fudd -- Chicken Little was right to be worried -- Reaping rewards. Doug Fine chronicles his attempts to reduce his carbon footprint without giving up the things he loves most, describing how he tried to power his SUV on restaurant grease, grow his own food, install solar panels in his home, and find other ways to lessen his impact on the environment.

Flannery, Tim F. ***The Weather Makers: How Man Is Changing the Climate and What It Means to Life on Earth.*** Atlantic Monthly, 2006.

A history of climate change, how it will unfold over the next century, and what can be done to prevent other cataclysmic events including renewable power sources such as wind, solar and geothermal energy.

***Food, Inc.: How Industrial Food is Making Us Sicker, Fatter, and Poorer-- and What You Can Do About It.*** PublicAffairs, 2009.

Reforming fast food nation: a conversation with Eric Schlosser -- Exploring the corporate powers behind the way we eat: the making of Food, Inc / by Robert Kenner -- Organics-healthy food, and so much more / by Gary Hirshberg -- Food, science, and the challenge of world hunger-- who will control the future? / by Peter Pringle -- The ethanol scam: burning food to make motor fuel / by Robert Bryce -- The climate crisis at the end of your fork / by Anna Lappé -- Cheap food: workers pay the price / by Arturo Rodriguez, with Alexa Delwiche and Sheheryar Kaoosji -- The financial crisis and world hunger / by Muhammad Yunus -- Why bother? / by Michael Pollan -- Declare your independence / by Joel Salatin -- Eating made simple / by Marion Nestle -- Improving kids' nutrition: an action tool kit for parents and citizens / by the Center for Science in the Public Interest -- Produce to the people: a prescription for health/ by Preston Maring. A companion book to the documentary "Food, Inc." that explores the issues raised by the movie, including the industrialization of the food supply, the benefits of organic eating, food myths, the link between the U.S. food system and global warming, the global impact of food industrialization, and other related topics.

Freese, Barbara. ***Coal: A Human History.*** Perseus, 2003.

Traces the history of coal, discussing how it has been used in different cultures, how it is mined, what negative effects it has had on people, economics, and the environment, and the role it has played in world history and development.

Friedman, Thomas. ***Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution, and How It Can Renew America.*** Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008.

Argues that the United States needs to adopt an environmentally friendly national strategy to be healthier, wealthier, and more secure, innovative, and productive.

George, Rose. ***The Big Necessity: The Unmentionable World of Human Waste and Why It Matters.*** Metropolitan, 2008.

Describes ways that societies all over the world deal--and do not deal--with human waste, and covers the sewers of Paris, London, and New York City; examines the public toilets in India, China's biogas digesters, third world sanitation movements, the U.S. military laser elimination methods, and more.

Gore, Albert. ***An Inconvenient Truth: The Crisis of Global Warming.*** Viking:, 2007.

An adaptation of the book in which former Vice President Al Gore examines the climate crisis that is threatening the future of the planet, describes what the world's governments are doing to correct the problem, and explains why the problem should be taken more seriously. Includes photographs, maps, and graphs.

Grescoe, Taras. ***Bottomfeeder: How to Eat Ethically in a World of Vanishing Seafood.*** Bloomsbury, 2008.

Discusses the environmental impact of overfishing, such as micro-organism infestations, and problems involving pollution, unregulated fishing practices, and climate change as the author travels from one seafood restaurant to another in search of a decent meal, and includes suggestions for which fish to eat.

- Kurlansky, Mark. ***Cod: A Biography of the Fish That Changed the World***. 1998.  
Examines the role the codfish has played in world history; tells of explorers, merchants, writers, chefs, and fishermen whose lives have been intertwined with the once-abundant fish; provides details about the personality, life, and habits of the cod; and discusses attempts to save it from extinction.
- --. ***Salt: A World History***. Penguin Books, 2003, c2002.  
Chronicles the history of salt, discussing how it has shaped civilizations from the earliest beginnings of world history and how it has been used in different cultures.
- McDonough, William. ***Cradle to [Cradle]: Remaking the Way We Make Things***. North Point Press, 2002.  
The authors argue that the traditional "reduce, reuse, recycle" maxim promoted by environmentalists is not an effective long-term solution to industrial waste, and describes their principles of "eco-effectiveness" which call for a nature-based model of manufacturing.
- McPhee, John A. ***The Control of Nature***. Noonday, 1990.  
Details the strategies and tactics through which people attempt to control nature.
- Mitchell, Stacy. ***Big-Box Swindle: The True Cost of Mega-Retailers and the Fight for America's Independent Businesses***. Beacon Press, c2006.  
Chain store world -- Fading prosperity -- Community life -- Blighted landscape -- Sometimes low prices -- Monopolized consumers -- Uncle Sam's invisible hand -- Communities unchained -- Declaration of independents. Examines how, over a twenty-year-span of time, large retail chains have squeezed out small independent businesses; and describes how many communities have fought back to keep the mega-retailers out of their towns.
- Pearce, Fred. ***With Speed and Violence: Why Scientists Fear Tipping Points in Climate Change***. Beacon, 2007.  
The author examines the history of the Earth's climate changes and the consequences of increased global warming, and maintains that continued human interference could cause irreversible changes that could threaten the habitability of Earth.
- Pollan, Michael. ***The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals***. 2006.  
Offers insight into food consumption in the twenty-first century, explaining how an abundance of unlimited food varieties reveals the responsibilities of consumers to protect their health and the environment.
- Revkin, Andrew. ***The Burning Season: The Murder of Chico Mendes and the Fight for the Amazon Rain Forest***. Houghton Mifflin, 1990.  
An account of the life of the Brazilian rubber tapper and grass-roots environmentalist, and a celebration of the beauty of the Amazon basin.
- Schossor, Eric. ***Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal***. 2001.  
Traces the history of the fast food industry and discusses how it arose in postwar America.
- Shuman, Michael. ***The Small-Mart Revolution: How Local Businesses are Beating the Global Competition***. Berrett-Koehler, c2006.  
Discusses strategies used by local, home-based, and small businesses to compete against larger chain corporations, describes the benefits of supporting locally owned businesses, and details ways for consumers, investors, and policymakers to support them.

Stewart, Amy. ***Flower Confidential***. Algonquin Books, 2007.

An exploration of the cut flower industry that covers its history and the techniques used to breed, grow, and sell flowers around the world. Includes tips on care and feeding, locations of markets and growers, and statistics.

Stuart, Tristram. ***Waste: Uncovering the Global Food Scandal***. Norton, 2009.

Traces the problem of world hunger along the length of the food chain, arguing that consumers in North America and Europe discard half their food while crops in developing countries rot because there is no way to process and/or get them to market, and offering a plan of rectify the problem by reducing, redistributing, and recycling.

Sweet, William. ***Kicking the Carbon Habit: Global Warming and the Case for Renewable and Nuclear Energy***. Columbia University, 2006.

Argues that cutting oil consumption in the U.S. is an unrealistic goal and that climate change should be addressed by reducing coal use, discussing the history of coal mining and combustion in the U.S., the relationship between carbon dioxide and temperature, and currently available low-carbon and zero-carbon technologies.

Vaillant, John. ***The Golden Spruces: A True Story of Myth, Madness and Greed***. 2005.

Examines how the destruction of an ancient tree impacted the Haida, a legendary seafaring tribe based in the Queen Charlottes, explaining what the tree had symbolized to the tribe and everyone who laid eyes on it.

Weisman, Alan. ***The World Without Us***. Thomas Dunne, 2007.

Presents a narrative nonfiction that examines the human impact upon the Earth and how it would respond without the pressure of human presence.