



Chapter 25: Environmental Worldviews

APES 2013

Date

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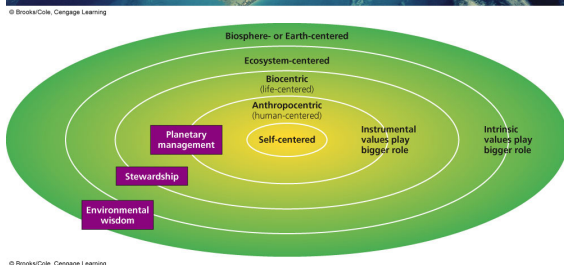
Biosphere 2

- ✦ Constructed near Tucson, AZ in 1991
- ✦ 8 people sealed inside
- ✦ Included a tropical rainforest, savanna, desert, lakes, streams, freshwater and saltwater wetlands, and a small ocean with a coral reef
- ✦ More than 4,000 species of plants and animals
- ✦ Designed to mimic the Earth's natural chemical cycling systems
- ✦ Problems: too much CO₂ buildup, some insects got in from the outside and killed those designed to be there, tropical birds died, 19 out of 25 species became extinct (including all of the pollinators)
- ✦ Successes: wastewater recycling, produced 80% of food supply

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Environmental Worldviews and Ethics

- ✦ Environmental worldviews - how people think the world works and what they believe their role in the world should be
- ✦ Anthropocentric (human-centered)
- ✦ Biocentric (life-centered)
- ✦ Environmental ethics - what one believes about what is right and what is wrong in our behavior toward the environment



Figs. 25-2 & 25-3

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Human Centered Worldviews

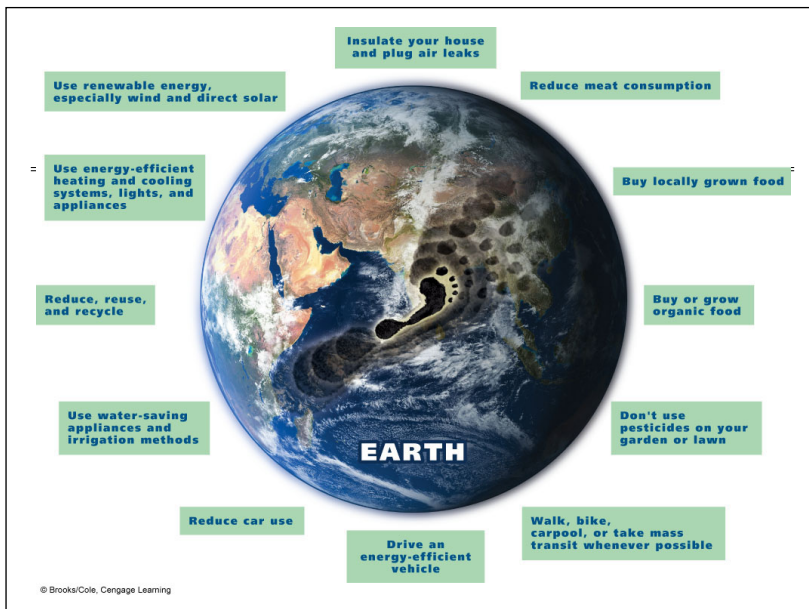
- ✦ Planetary Management Worldview
 - ✦ No-problem school - We can solve any environmental problem with economic growth and development and better technology
 - ✦ Free-market school - Little governmental influence or regulation, no publicly owned property
 - ✦ Spaceship-earth school - Earth is a complex machine that we can understand, dominate, change, and manage
- ✦ Stewardship Worldview

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Life Centered Worldviews

- ✦ Inherent or intrinsic value of all forms of life - each species is a unique storehouse of genetic information that should be respected and protected simply because it exists
- ✦ Instrumental value - each species has potential economic value
- ✦ Environmental Wisdom Worldview - We are part of the community of life, and should work with the earth to promote environmental sustainability
- ✦ Deep Ecology Worldview - each nonhuman form has inherent value separate from humanity; life is interdependent that humans have no right to disrupt; current human interference is excessive; it would be better to decrease human population; economic policies need to be changed; quality of all life not just humans; everyone has an ethical obligation to implement change

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