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# Environmental history pdf

As Aldo Leopold defined it, "Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land." The goal of environmental management is to create and maintain this harmony. It is an interdisciplinary practice that seeks to balance economic and social needs with the needs of the environment and its flora and fauna. Environmental management focuses on solving problems in the natural world. The first step is identifying what problem needs to be solved. For example, non-native, invasive species are taking over a wetland; local waterfowl populations are declining rapidly; or lakes are experiencing unexplained fish kills. Environmental managers investigate an identified issue and research possible solutions. An environmental management plan requires baseline data. In an aquatic environment, such a plan includes surveys and inventories of local populations. Soil and water testing determine the health of water resources. Based on these findings, management options may be restoration of wetlands to provide habitat for wildlife species as well as flood protection for human populations. An investigation of outlying areas can also locate sources of negative impacts. Plant diversity is a measure of environmental health. An inventory of plant species in a prairie reveals the quality of an ecosystem. For example, if the diversity shows a high percentage of non-native plants, wildlife populations may not thrive. Environmental management may include controlled burns that favor prairie plant resurgence. Plantings of desired species can improve diversity, which in turn provides food and habitat for native species. Forests are a renewable resource. Environmental management maintains the health of a forest by removing non-native species that may outcompete desired trees. Assessment of tree health determines culling practices of diseased individuals. A program of prescribed burns can limit forest duff and eliminate the risk of catastrophic wildfire. If trees are to be harvested, environmental management will assess impacts and provide a schedule for tree recovery. The overarching goal is continued sustainability of the forest. Environmental issues are not always confined to local areas. Some negative impacts can come from sources far away. For example, sulfur dioxide emissions from coal-burning power plants can travel hundreds of miles from their source. Their deleterious effects were documented in northeastern forests, which experienced tree loss and lake acidification. Environmental management then moves beyond a local issue into a regional one. Solutions require the participation of several agencies, requiring interdisciplinary cooperation. A solution involves consideration of many non-environmental factors, including economic and financial concerns. As with any environmental management plan, continued monitoring and re-assessment are necessary for a long-term effective solution. If you want to teach others about environmental issues, your first stop is the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE), a network of organizations throughout the U.S. and Canada that raise awareness about environmental issues. Since 1971, NAAEE has provided training for people interested in developing programs to educate the public about the environment in non-formal settings, K-12 classrooms, universities, government agencies and corporations [source: NAAEE]. Like traditional environmental organizations, groups focused on environmental education cover topics like air quality and climate change, endangered species, energy, transportation, forestry, marine life, water quality, solid waste and sustainable development [source: EELink]. The Canary Project, for example, is an organization dedicated to photographing landscapes around the world to show the effects of global warming [source: The Canary Project]. The Green Ribbon Pledge teaches Americans how to reduce their dependence on fossil fuels, encouraging them to use public transportation, take shorter showers, let dishes and laundry air dry and weather strip doors and windows [source: The Green Ribbon Pledge]. Other education-related environmental organizations include Negative Population Group (NPG), which publishes newsletters, forum papers and population fact sheets to educate the public and politicians on the affect of overpopulation on the environment [source: NPG]. Another is The Center for Ecoliteracy, which teaches grammar and high schools students about sustainably living by tending school gardens and designing neighborhood recycling programs [source: The Center for Ecoliteracy]. When it comes to the environment, there are many lessons to learn -- and teach. Read on for information on global warming organizations. Not all deserts have sand and they're certainly not all hot. They're just extremely dry and have little vegetation. That means deserts are located all over the planet, including at super-high elevations. By Sharise Cunningham Our planet has weathered many disastrous events since it banged into being around 4.5 billion years ago. Most recently, Hurricane Katrina, the Chernobyl nuclear explosion and global warming come to mind. Older contenders vying for this dubious title include the great ice age or the mass dinosaur extinction. But which one was the worst? What event caused the most lasting damage? It's a difficult, contentious question to answer, but this article will try. First, it helps to define what we mean by the term environmental disaster. Definitions vary considerably. Disasters can be naturally caused or human-induced. They can be one-time occurrences or spread out over decades. In addition, their effects can take many forms. They may impair air quality, pollute the water, take human lives, destroy pristine landscapes or harm wildlife. For the purposes of this article, environmental disaster refers to occurrences that were one-time, human-induced events that had a long-lasting, negative impact on the environment. Chernobyl, global warming and Hurricane Katrina seem like reasonable guesses. The nuclear reactor that exploded in the Ukraine spewed 50 tons of radioactive material, burned for 10 days and forced the evacuation of at least 30,000 people. Elevated radiation levels caused thousands of people to eventually die from cancer and other illnesses. In addition to the human casualties, the radiation carried by the wind contaminated millions of acres of forest [source: History Channel]. Despite the initial environmental damage, contaminated trees recovered within three years. And forests in the "exclusion zone," the area closed to humans because of dangerous radiation levels, are now thriving. In a surprising turn of events, nature once threatened by radiation is now blossoming in the absence of human interference, while the land outside the exclusion zone now is harmed by the actions of humans living there. Thus, although Chernobyl dealt a devastating blow to the people in the region, its long-term damage seems largely constrained to human life [source: Chernobyl Forum]. Likewise, global warming is a prolonged process rather than a one-time event, and Hurricane Katrina was a natural phenomenon. So what does meet our criteria? Find out on the next page. We've all been told that in order to help the environment, we should recycle, take shorter showers, and carpool. Although these are great ways to go green, there are a ton of things you can do in addition to be more environmentally friendly. Here are a few simple things you can do to make a difference. Composting If you are a homeowner, a simple way to be more environmentally friendly is to start a compost pile. A compost pile converts food scraps, yard clippings, and various other items into nutrient-rich soil. Composting not only reduces landfill waste, it is also beneficial to soil, plants, and the environment as it depletes the need for chemical fertilizers. To start a pile, lay twigs or straw on the bare ground, so worms and other beneficial organisms can access it. Next, add compost in layers, alternating between moist (nitrogen) and dry (carbon). Add manure, green manure, or any additional nitrogen source to activate the pile. Cover the pile to keep it warm and moist, and water it occasionally. Every few weeks, turn the pile with a shovel or pitch fork. Once the pile is established, you can add new materials by just mixing them in. Go Vegetarian Believe it or not, your diet has an impact on the environment. By simply eliminating meat from your diet, you can conserve water, energy, and soil. It takes 100 to 200 times more water to produce a pound of beef than it takes to produce a pound of produce. Eating a plant-based diet also saves energy. Producing animal-based protein takes about eight times more fossil-fuel energy than it does to produce plant-based protein. Raising animals for consumption is also bad for the soil. The US has lost about one-third of its topsoil due to the erosion and soil depletion related to livestock agriculture. By changing your diet, you can help the environment and, not to mention, the well-being of animals. Change Your Kitchen Habits Simple changes can make your kitchen more environmentally friendly. For example, instead of using paper towels, use a dish towel. You should also replace paper plates and plastic utensils with reusable ones. Taking these actions will not only reduce the amount of kitchen waste you have, it will also save money. You can save water by putting a drain stopper in your sink, and reuse the water for plants, the yard, or, if the water is very dirty, water your compost pile. In addition, using a toaster oven is more energy-efficient than using a conventional oven, and using a microwave uses less energy than a toaster oven. All in all, there are numerous different actions you can take to help the environment. The fact of the matter is that our actions are killing the planet and we are the only ones that can save it. Even the actions of one individual can make a huge difference over time, so be the one to make that change. Related Resource: The 23 Best Online MBA Programs in Sustainability Five High Paying Green Jobs Five Career Paths for Green MBA Graduates How Green is Your Campus? What is a Green MBA? CDC's National Biomonitoring Program (NBP) determines which environmental chemicals people have been exposed to and the amount of those chemicals in their bodies. Environmental chemicals refer to a chemical compound or chemical element present in air, water, food, soil, dust, or other environmental media such as consumer products. Currently, more than 400 environmental chemicals or their metabolites are measured in human samples (e.g. urine, blood, serum, breast milk, and meconium). CDC's National Biomonitoring Program provides information on human health effects, national surveillance data, and additional learning resources for each chemical and chemical group studied. 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