

Chapter 2: Environmental Ethics and Economics: Values and Choices

Know the following terms:

Culture	Subsistence economy
Worldview	Cost-benefit analysis
Ethics	External cost
Ethical standards	Affluenza
Environmental ethics	Environmental economists
Anthropocentrism	Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
Biocentrism	Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI)
Ecocentrism	Nonmarket values
Environmental justice	Nonmarket values
Economics	Contingent values
Economy	Market failure
Goods	Ecolabeling
Services	

The Mirrar Clan Confronts the Jabiluka Uranium Mine

1. Where do the Mirrar people live and what is their cultural connection to the land?
2. What is the fuss all about?
3. Why is uranium mined?
4. Why was the Jabiluka project abandoned?
5. What is the demand for uranium currently and why?
6. What problems are the Arabunna people facing with the mining companies?

Culture, Worldview, and the Environment

Ethics and economics involve values –

Think about it ... what influences you to make the choices you make? How do you feel about cultures that are different than your own? How do your religious belief, upbringing, and views of the world affect the environment in which you live? Why do you drive the car you drive? Why are some people vegetarians? Why do you live where you live? Just think about it as you read through this chapter.

Culture and worldview influence our perception of the environment –

7. How do you think your worldview here in Warner Robins differs from that of a person in a refugee camp in the Sudan? India? Italy?
8. How about your view in Warner Robins and the worldview of someone living on a farm in the middle of Nebraska?

9. Whose worldview do you think is the correct worldview? Can there be a correct worldview?

Many factors shape our worldviews and perceptions of the environment –

10. How does religion play a role in shaping our worldview? How do communities?

11. Politics? We are coming up on an election this year and it has been historical ... first African American candidate, first woman! Are your political views republican, democratic, liberaterian, socialist, communist?

12. Economics?

13. What does it mean to have a vested interest?

Environmental Ethics

14. What does an ethics course teach you?

15. Why do you think it is important for you to study ethics?

16. What does the utilitarian principle state?

Environmental ethics pertains to humans and the environment –

17. What brought on the awareness of the environmental ethics?

18. Do you think the present generation is obligated to future generations?

19. Should we place industrial wastes in areas of lower income homes?

20. Does it matter if we kill species to extinction if we can generate jobs by doing so?

We have extended ethical consideration to more entities through time –

21. Should all people be granted ethical considerations?

22. Are humans a part of nature?

23. You are an anthropocentric person. How would you view the development of a proposed mine in an area such as the Jabiluka?

24. You are a biocentric person. How would you view the development of a proposed mine in an area such as the Jabiluka?
25. You are an ecocentric person. How would you view the development of a proposed mine in an area such as the Jabiluka?

Environmental ethics has ancient roots –

Read to get an overview of the roots of the movement.

The industrial revolution inspired environmental philosophers –

Describe the contribution and thoughts of the following people:

26. John Ruskin –
27. Ralph Waldo Emerson –
28. Henry David Thoreau –

Conservation and preservation arose at the start of the 20th century –

29. John Muir –
30. Gifford Pinchot –
31. How were Muir and Pinchot in opposition to one another in their efforts?

Aldo Leopold land ethic arose from the conservation and preservation ethics –

32. Aldo Leopold –

Deep ecology extends environmental ethics –

33. What is self realization?
34. What is biocentric equality?

Environmental justice seeks equal treatment for all races and classes –

What is your favorite saying? Or better yet what do we hear you say all the time? “THAT’S NOT FAIR!”. Well, unfortunately life is not fair so just get used to it. But the goal would be to make life fair, don’t you think?

35. What was the driving force behind the environmental justice movement?
36. Where are most toxic waste landfills located in the US in terms of demographics (population)?
37. What problems tend to be associated with locating these landfills close to people?

Economics: Approaches and Environmental Implications

Is there a trade-off between economics and the environment?

Economics studies the allocation of scarce resources –

When you hear the term economics you probably think money but economics is not about money ... it is supply and demand. And then of course, money becomes a factor!

38. What does the word ecology come from?
39. What is “our” household?

Economies are intricately linked to their environments –

40. What does economic activity use to generate supply of goods?
41. What sorts of activities does the Earth’s natural ecological systems provide? (Table 2.2)
42. How does economic growth impact the environment?
43. What is supply and demand and how do they affect one another?

Cost-benefit analysis is a widespread tool –

44. If benefits exceed cost what should be done?
45. If costs exceed benefit?
46. Are all cost and benefits easy to quantify? Why?

Aspects of neoclassical economics have profound implications for the environment -

47. Is it true that resources can be replaced? Explain.
48. Is it true that costs and benefits are internal? Explain.
49. Is it true that long-term effects should be discounted? Explain.
50. What is the difference between a positive and a negative externality?
51. What are examples of external costs?
52. Is it true that growth is good? Explain.

Is the growth paradigm good for us?

The United States is one of the wealthiest countries on the planet. We experience one of the highest standards of living when compared to other countries and we have more comforts and goods than most ... so why is it that we are some of the most discontent people on the planet?

Economists disagree on whether economic growth is sustainable -

53. What do ecological economists believe will happen if we do not rein in population growth and resource consumption?

A steady-state economy is a revolutionary alternative to growth –

54. John Stuart Mill –

We can measure economic progress differently -

55. How has the health of an economy been assessed?
56. How does the GPI differ from the GDP?

We can give ecosystem goods and services monetary values –

57. Look at Table 2.3 and list the different types of nonmarket value that are usually not considered in defining value.
58. How do you think these things can be assessed?

Markets can fail -

59. What is market failure?

Ecolabeling helps address market failure -

60. Have you bought products based on them being eco friendly?

61. How can you as a consumer affect what a manufacturer does?

Corporations are responding to sustainability concerns -

62. Pay attention to TV commercials ... everything is going green. It is the way of the future. What are waveriders?

63. Interface, Inc. is right here in Atlanta. What are the following companies doing to go green?

64. Nike –

65. Hewlett-Packard –

66. Gap –

67. What is greenwashing?

68. Do you believe companies do what they say they are doing?

69. Wal-Mart?