WHAT’S YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL WORLDVIEW?
1. Which statement fits you best?

a. Hunting is a right that we enjoy because we are in charge of nature.

b. Hunting is ok, especially if you are planning to use the animal for food or some other use.

c. We should not kill other parts of nature.
2. Which statement fits you best?

a. I don’t worry about how much gasoline I use because I know that there is a lot available and humans will develop something else to use when it is gone.

b. I try to conserve gasoline but I think we will probably not run out of some kind of fuel for our cars.

c. Gasoline is a limited resource and we should do everything we can not to waste it.
3. Which statement fits you best?

a. As the planet’s most important species, we are in charge of nature.

b. We are the planet’s most important species, but we have a responsibility to care for the rest of the planet.

c. Nature exists for all species, not just for us, and we are not in charge of the earth.
4. Which statement fits you best?

a. My consumer choices are not based on environmental issues.

b. I try to make consumer choices that are environmentally beneficial.

c. I will only buy things if they are environmentally friendly for the earth.
5. Which one of the following would you be most likely to copy?

a. A businessman made millions of dollars but did so at the cost of the environment.

b. A store owner buys products made from environmentally responsible materials.

c. A person lived on a platform in a large tree for six months to protest logging.
6. Which of the following statements is closest to your opinion?

a. The amount of global warming that is happening (if it is really happening) is not enough to make me change anything about my lifestyle.

b. I worry about global warming but want to use the fossil fuels that contribute to it.

c. I think global warming is a big problem brought on by mankind’s selfish use of resources.
Count the number of times you answered a, b, or c and get the total points you have for this quiz.

a = 3
b = 2
c = 1
18 points = Planetary management worldview

12 points = Stewardship worldview

6 points = Environmental wisdom worldview
Comparison of Three Major Environmental Worldviews

**Planetary Management**

We are apart from the rest of nature and can manage nature to meet our increasing needs and wants.

Because of our ingenuity and technology, we will not run out of resources.

The potential for economic growth is essentially unlimited.

Our success depends on how well we manage the earth's life-support systems mostly for our benefit.

**Stewardship**

We have an ethical responsibility to be caring managers, or stewards, of the earth.

We will probably not run out of resources, but they should not be wasted.

We should encourage environmentally beneficial forms of economic growth and discourage environmentally harmful forms.

Our success depends on how well we manage the earth's life-support systems for our benefit and for the rest of nature.

**Environmental Wisdom**

We are a part of and totally dependent on nature, and nature exists for all species.

Resources are limited and should not be wasted.

We should encourage earth-sustaining forms of economic growth and discourage earth-degrading forms.

Our success depends on learning how nature sustains itself and integrating such lessons from nature into the ways we think and act.
Environmental Worldviews Lie on a Continuum—from Self- to Earth-Centered
Planetary Management Worldview or “Wall Street View”

- Believe that humans are set apart from nature and can manage nature to meet our needs and wants
- Believe that resources are not limited because we will develop and find new ones
- Any economic growth is good and should not be restricted by worries about the environment
Stewardship Worldview
or “Smoky the Bear View”

- Humans have an ethical responsibility to care for nature.
- We will probably not run out of resources if we manage them properly.
- Economic growth that is environmentally beneficial should be encouraged. If it is not, it should be discouraged.
Environmental Wisdom Worldview or “The Treehuggers’ View”

- Nature exists for all species and we must consider all species in our actions.
- All resources are limited and should not be wasted.
- Economic growth that is environmentally beneficial should be encouraged. If it is not, it should be discouraged or prohibited.
Critical Thinking

What values are most important in each view?

How would you classify the Japanese whalers and the crew protesting the whaling?

Is one view “better” than the other?
Core Case Study: Biosphere 2—A Lesson in Humility

■ 1991: Biosphere 2
  – Constructed near Tucson, AZ, U.S.

■ Designed to mimic the earth’s natural chemical recycling systems

■ Many problems

■ Some successes
Biosphere 2—Designed to Be a Self-Sustaining Life-Support System
Can We Manage the Earth?

- Criticism of the human-centered worldviews
- Is this supported by the failure of Biosphere 2?
We Can Live More Simply and Lightly on the Earth

- **Voluntary simplicity**
  - doing and enjoying more with less
    (environmentally ethical consumption)

- **Principle of enoughness**, Mahatma Gandhi
  - Many religions teach simpler lifestyles
How Much Is Enough?

- What are our basic needs?
- What are our qualitative needs?
We Can Become Better Environmental Citizens

Avoid these mental traps

- Gloom-and-doom pessimism
- Blind technological optimism
- Paralysis by analysis
- Faith in simple, easy answers

Good earthkeeping