

Name _____

Date _____



Human-Environment Interaction

It Goes Both Ways

Our environment affects us,
What we eat, what we build and how we get dressed up.
We change our environment, too.
We drill, we farm, we build and pollute.
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Humans and the environment, it goes both ways,
Affecting each other until the end of days.
Landforms and water, plant and animal life,
Climate, elevation—we have to handle it right.
We depend on natural resources,
But sometimes we fall victim to the Earth's forces.
So many ways the environment affects us.
So, adapting is a must.
And you may ask, how do we adapt?
Let me break it down for you real fast:
We take what the environment has to give,
And it determines what we eat, where and how we live.

Take different groups of Native Americans,
Masters at adapting to environments that they were in.
In the Pacific Northwest,
Nations near the coast, yeah, found success.

Summers were cool, but winters were cold.
And, the rainfall, it was out of control.
So, they would take tree bark that was soft
And make a cape to keep the rain off.
And when they were hungry, what did they do?
Turned to the forests and the ocean for food.
They hunted beaver, elk and deer,
And caught whales and the fish that were there.
What about the land, how did they adapt?
Villages on the coast 'cause the land was flat.
And they built shelters out of, out of cedar trees,
Plus canoes to travel the seas.

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So, how do we affect the environment?
First of all, the food that we try and get.
We modify the land so we can farm,
And build dams to prevent flooding in a storm,
To store water to drink and to generate power,
To build highways to drive 55 miles an hour.
We use natural resources for energy,
Digging for coal, drilling for oil, let me see.
We urbanize, building towns and cities,
But not all effects on the environment are pretty.

We burn many fossil fuels and pollute,
But there's still a few good things we can do:
Like recycle or plant trees,
Or pick up trash when we see it in the streets.

Now let's take it to ancient times.
Even the ancient Romans modified.
They made buildings in all different styles,
And aqueducts carried water for hundreds of miles
Into giant baths where they made water hot.
But we all know that's not where the story stops,
The Romans never, ever had total control.
Don't forget the eruption of the volcano:
Mount Vesuvius—there was nothing left to save,
When it erupted and buried the city of Pompeii.

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