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What is Environmental Science?

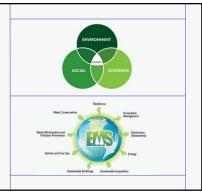
- Interdisciplinary!
- Relationship between humans, other organisms, and the physical environment
- Informed by SCIENCE
- Focus: identifying, understanding, and solving environmental problems



2

What is sustainability?

- May be seen as an end goal of environmental science
- Create and maintain conditions under which humans and nature can co-exist that fulfill social, economic, and environmental needs of present and future generations



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Tragedy of the Commons

- Occurs when shared resources (the "commons") are used at a rate exceeding the sustainable limit
- As population grows and consumption increases, the "commons" collapse
- Originally coined by Garrett Hardin in 1968

	shared by multiple cattle owners. Each ow in unregulated resource this is "logical" sir- are shared by all. This leads to the ultimate Sustainable Use	
The Commons		
40 acres [16 hectares] 1,320ft [400m ²]	20 Cows Carrying Capacity Atmosphere CO, 40	20+ Cows Tipping Point
The Traggady of the Common and has particular to	is applies to numerous environmental, eco levance to greenhouse gas regulation relat-	nomic and social phenomena of to global syaming

4

What are some human behaviors that threaten sustainability?

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