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1 09.14.20

- Coriolis Effect
 - North and south poles have different deflections of wind patterns
 - Little/no deflection at the equator
- Air circulation
 - Hadley cells: 0-30 degrees North and South
 - Ferrell Cell: 30-60 degrees North
 - Northeast and Southeast trade wind (remember directions!)
 - Westerlies
 - Polar winds
- Ocean currents also affect the distribution of climates
- Surface ocean currents generated by wind, Coriolis effect, heat, and continents
 - Trade winds push warm surface waters west
 - Water reaches continents and flows north and south
 - water cools
 - Westerlies push cooler water east
 - Water reaches continents and flows to equator
- El nino (Souther Oscillation)
 - recurring climate pattern involving changes in the temperature of waters in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.
 - The ocean and atmosphere can interact to affect climate
 - * Water in the eastern pacific warms up
 - * sea level pressure drops but rises in the W pacific
 - * Trade winds weaken
 - * Upwelling in E Pacific is reduced

* Warmer waters - increased rainfall in Peru

- Global warming has amplified the intensity, duration, and frequency of extreme heat and heat waves.

2 09.11.20

- Northern latitudes experience greater seasonality in CO₂ concentrations
 - This is due to variation in photosynthetic activity by plants
- Greenhouse effect
 - Some incoming solar radiation is absorbed
 - Other amounts are reflected back into the atmosphere
 - Greenhouse gases capture and reradiate some heat over and over, warming the Earth
 - More gases, more heat
- Albedo: measure of the reflectivity of a surface
 - light surfaces have a higher albedo, darker surfaces have a lower albedo
 - surfaces with a low albedo release more heat into the atmosphere
- Positive Feedback Loops
 - applied to albedo:
 - temps rise -> more ice melting -> more water warming -> temps rise
- Urban Heat Island Effect
 - cities will be inc their population, inc energy and temperature
 - cities in particular have higher temperatures
 - tree cover -> cooler temperatures
- Small changes in overall global temp can cause significant changes in weather creating more extreme storms and more record temps
 - roughly twice as many heat records

- alterations in global jet streams
 - frost comes later and begins earlier
- General climate change impacts:
 - Health impacts
 - Crop productivity
 - Coastal erosion
 - Biodiversity
 - Water availability
 - Fire risk
- Weather events getting more extreme with
 - sea levels
 - wildfires
- Need both adaptation and mitigation
 - adaptation: responding to warming that has already happened
 - mitigation: preventing further warming by addressing climate change causes

3 09.09.20

3.1 The Earth's Atmosphere

- Climate change is a serious environmental problem impacting species, ecosystems, and the globe
- The atmosphere helps protect the Earth from the sun and keeps the temperature of the Earth cool
- Atmosphere has a significant impact on climate
- Earth's Atmosphere Composition
 - Nitrogen (78%)
 - Oxygen (21%)
 - Other - Greenhouse Gases (1%)

3.2 The Keeling Curve

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4 09.02.20

4.1 Demographic Transition Model

- Demographers use age structure diagrams to predict future growth potential of a population
 - Pyramid structures indicate fast growth
 - House-shaped structures have moderate growth
 - Diamond structures have low/negative growth
- Development leads to smaller families
- Demographic transitions happen country by country
- Industrialization might not lead to a demographic transition in all countries
 - May not be linked to quality of life
 - Religion/Cultural beliefs
 - Social justice issue, improving the well-being of women and children key to dec. fertility

4.2 Social Justice: Education for Women

- Education of girls & economic opportunities for women are correlated with lower birth rates
- Education empowers women to take control over their own fertility through:
 - Birth control
 - Marrying later
 - Delaying childbirth for career opportunities
- Women earning more money is correlated to lower child mortality

4.3 Environmental Impact

- Slowing population growth is critical to sustainability and reducing our population impact
- Our impact on the population is a result of (1) our population size and (2) our consumption habits - both must be addressed
- Ecological footprint: the land area needed to provide the resources for, and assimilate the waste of, a person or population

4.4 Sustainability

- A dynamic process between the economy, society, and environment
- Sustainable: The process or the activity can be maintained without exhaustion or collapse
 - Intra & Inter-generational issue
 - Capacity of a system to accomodate changes:
 - * rates of renewable resource use should not exceed regeneration rate
 - * rates of non-renewable resource use should not exceed rate of renewable substitute dev
 - * rates of pollution should not exceed ssimilative capacity of the environment
- Sustainable development has three factors:
 - Social equity
 - Economic efficiency
 - Environmental responsibility

4.5 Worldviews

- Culture influences our beliefs through:
 - Knowledge
 - Beliefs
 - Values
 - Learned ways of life

- Worldviews are affected by:
 - Environmental Ethics

5 08.31.20

5.1 Human Populations

- 3 major sparks of growth
 - Agricultural Revolution
 - Industrial Revolution
 - Green Revolution
- With more food and technology, the population and need for more human labor increased
- The human population is rapidly increasing and the impact of humans is due to:
 - More humans overall
 - Greater growth / person
- To address population growth, we need to pursue a variety of approaches that address factors encouraging high birth rates
- Zero population growth: the absence of population growth, occurs when birth rates = death rates
 - Replacement fertility is reached

5.2 Population Ecology

- Analyze and categorize human populations using population ecology techniques
- Population Ecology: a branch of biology dealing with the number of individuals in a particular species in an area over time
- Ecologists study populations to understand what makes them survive and thrive
- Size, distribution, and growth rate is influenced by a variety of factors and are important to understanding population ecology

5.3 Monitoring Population Dynamics

- Population Dynamics: Changes over time in population size and composition
- Important metrics:
 - Minimum viable population - min number of individuals that would still allow population to persist or grow
 - Carrying Capacity (K) - the maximum population size that a particular environment can support indefinitely
- Population Density - the overall density a particular population can sustain

5.4 Exponential Growth & Populations

- Exponential growth occurs in populations when growth is unrestricted. This is, overall, unsustainable
- Growth which becomes progressively larger each breeding cycle
- Produces a J curve when plotted

5.5 Monitoring Population Growth

- Population growth rate - the rate at which a population of a species grows over time
- Growth factors - factors which assist in the growth of a population
- Resistance factors - factors which inhibit the growth of a population
- Limiting factors: resources needed for survival but that may be in short supply

5.6 Logistic Growth

- Occurs when a population nears carrying capacity (k)
 - Maximum sustainable population size
 - Determined by limiting factors

5.7 Density-dependent/ Density-independent Factors

- Density dependent factors increase as populations grow, typically biotic
 - Disease
 - Competition
 - Predation
- Density independent facts affect population growth regardless of population size
 - Storm
 - Fire/Flood
 - Avalanche

5.8 Regulation

- Tendency for populations to decrease in size when above a certain level, and increase in size below that level
- Populations can only be regulated by density-dependent factors
- Top down Regulation
 - Predation
 - Disease
- Bottom up Regulation
 - Nutrients
 - Water
 - Sunlight

6 08.28.20

6.1 What is Science?

- Science: a body of knowledge that allows us to understand the world around us
- Science is based on empirical evidence

- Science allows us to test our ideas and evaluate the evidence
- Scientific knowledge, including facts, theories, and laws, is subject to change
- Scientific claims change as new evidence is made available

6.2 White-Nose Syndrome Case Study

6.2.1 About WNS

- White-Nose Syndrome
 - 2007-2016, 6+ million bats dead as a result of White Nose Syndrome
 - The reason for the deaths was White-Nose Syndrome
- Chytridiomycosis
 - Infectious, fungal disease affecting amphibians
 - Helped understand white-nose syndrome with bats

6.2.2 Science with WNS

- Scientific Method: the procedure used to empirically test a hypothesis
 1. Observations generate questions
 2. Choose a question to investigate
 3. Consult literature
 4. Develop a hypothesis and make a testable prediction
 5. Design and carry out a study
 6. Analyze data
 7. Draw a conclusion
- Inferences: Conclusions drawn based on observations
- Hypothesis: An inference that proposes possible explanation that includes previous knowledge/observation
- Testing a Hypothesis: Hypotheses can be tested through an observational or experimental study

- Scientific Studies: A fair test with results that could support or falsify the research prediction
 - Experimental Studies: Conditions are manipulated intentionally
 - * Test Group: the group in an experimental study such that it differs from the control in only one way
 - * Control Group: the group in an experimental study to which the test group's results are compared
 - Observational Studies: Gather real-world data without any intentional variable manipulation
- Theory: A hypothesis that survives repeated testing by significant research can become a theory
- Correlation v Causation
 - Correlation: two things occurring together but not necessarily having a cause-effect relationship
 - Cause-Effect Relationship: the association of two variables that identifies one variable occurring as a result of the other
 - Observational studies can derive correlation but not causation
 - Experimental studies can derive causal relationships
- Policy: a formalized plan that addresses a desired outcome or goal
 - policies need to be flexible, adapt to new findings, address the environmental problem, fit social need and be economically viable in order to work effectively.

6.3 Summary

- Scientific knowledge, though reliable and durable, is never absolute or certain
- This knowledge, including facts, theories, and laws, is subject to change
- Physical evidence, systematically collected and logically analyzed, helps scientists understand environmental issues and guide policy decisions

7 08.25.20

7.1 Applied v Empirical Science

- Applied Science = research whose findings are used to solve practical problems
- Empirical science: A scientific approach that investigates the natural world through case studies

7.2 Social Traps

- Occurs when a large amount of people are using a shared resource
- Seem good in the short term but are actually bad in the long term
- 3 Types:
 - Tragedy of the Commons: When resources are shared, individuals try to maximize personal benefit which hurts the resource itself
 - Time delay: Collective decisions that are good today but gone tomorrow
 - Sliding reinforcer: related to the evolution of natural organisms and GMOs

7.3 Beginning with Data Interpretation

- Variables represent factors that can be manipulated, controlled, or merely measured for research
- Variation = how much a variable changes
- Independent var is controlled to see effects in the Dependent var
- Graphs explore relationships with data and report this data

7.4 Observational v Experimental Studies

- Observational studies can observe a correlation but are unable to derive a causational reln.
- Experimental studies have a control var (required) and are able to derive causational relns.

8 08.24.20

8.1 Definitions

- Ecology: the branch of science dealing with the relationships of living things to one another & the environment
- Environmental Science: The study of all aspects of the environment, including physical, chemical, and biological factors, particularly with respect to how these aspects affect humans, and vice versa
- Environmental Ethics: Personal philosophy that influences how a person interacts with their natural environment and thus influences how one responds to environmental problems

8.2 Ecology != Environmentalism

- Distinguish between environmentalism & ecology

Environmentalism	Ecology
Activism to protect the environment	Scientific study of living and non-living things