



Ecology, Environment and Its Conservation

A Conceptual Map of 22 Pioneers Who Shaped Our Understanding of Ecology

The Atlas of
Human
Imagination
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1. Philosophical & Ethical Founders

Humanity & Nature



Buddha (500 BCE) – interdependence in nature; concept of non-harm



Hippocrates (400 BCE) – health and environment intertwined



Leonardo Da Vinci (1510) – deep observation of nature and ecology



Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1790) – holistic view of nature; concept of *Urpflanze*



William Blake (1794) – poetry based on unity with nature and moral reflection

Other notables: Aristotle, Laozi, Arne Naess

1. Conceptual Impact:

- Ethical foundations
- Human-nature unity
- Moral roots

2. Naturalists & Biologists

Life & Species



Antonie van Leeuwenhoek (1674) – microbiology and unseen ecosystems



Carl Linnaeus (1735) – taxonomy of nature



Charles Darwin (1859) – evolution and natural selection of species



Gregor Mendel (1866) – heredity and early awareness of genetics



Jane Goodall (1966) – primate ethology and conservation activism

Other notables: Malthus, von Humboldt, Haeckel, Rachel Carson, Eugene Odum

2. Conceptual Impact:

- Biological discovery
- Biodiversity
- Ecological observation

3. Earth & Climate Scientists

Planet as a System



John Tyndall (1859) – greenhouse gases such as CO₂



Fridtjof Nansen (1895) – polar exploration, climate studies and oceanography



Svante Arrhenius (1896) – CO₂ warming effect on climate



Alfred Wegener (1912) – *Pangaea*, geology and climatology



James Lovelock (1970) – *Gaia* hypothesis; Earth as a self-regulating system

Other notables: Arthur Tansley, Vladimir Vernadsky, Jacques Cousteau, Charles Keeling

3. Conceptual Impact:

- Earth is a fragile system
- Climate understanding
- *Gaia* hypothesis

4. Pioneers of Planetary Perspective

Earth from Space



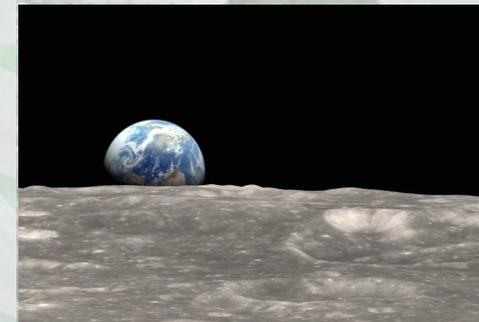
Richard Buckminster Fuller (1949) – *Spaceship Earth*, biosphere domes, sustainability



Wernher von Braun (1969) – Apollo 8 *Earthrise* imagery; planetary perspective



Carl Sagan (1977) – planetary studies; astrobiology and the fragility of Earth



4. Conceptual Impact:

- Planetary perspective
- Sustainability by design
- *Pale Blue Dot*

5. Artists & Promoters of Eco-Awareness

Aesthetics of Nature



Leonardo Da Vinci (1510) – detailed drawings of plants, water, geology, fossils, rivers and mountains



J.M.W. Turner (1804) – atmospherics; and the tension between humans, nature and technology



Hokusai (1831) – nature's most powerful forces - volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis



Claude Monet (1877) – light and seasons in nature; Giverny garden as a micro-ecosystem



Andy Warhol (1983) – *Endangered Species*; conservation artwork for the World Wildlife Fund

Other notables: Caspar David Friedrich, Joni Mitchell, Neil Young

5. Conceptual Impact:

- Public awareness of ecology
- Emotional impact
- Cultural changes