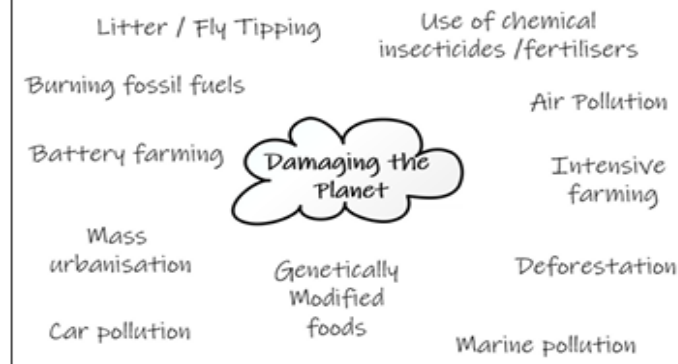


Stewardship

	Stewardship Looking after something for its real owner. Caring for the Earth on behalf of God.
	Environment Everything around us in the natural world. The environment includes people, animals, plants and resources.
	Sustainability Using the Earth's resources in a way which protects the environment for present and future generations.
	Wants Luxuries. Things that humans desire but that are not needed for survival.
	Needs Necessities. Things that we must have in order to survive and thrive.



All religions believe that we have a responsibility to care for the world and the environment (including the animals, plants and resources on the Earth). These beliefs are often at the very centre of religious teachings - for example one of the reasons Muslims follow a halal diet is to help to maintain the natural balance or 'fitrah' in the world.

However, believing that we should care for the world is not only a religious belief. Many people who do not follow a particular religion - for example Humanists - believe strongly that we should protect the earth and its environment.



Beliefs about the Earth



Christianity

God made the Earth and gave Christians the special responsibility as **Stewards** to look after it. They can use the Earth but cannot abuse it.

Judaism

Jews believe that God created the world and gave human beings a special responsibility within creation to cultivate it, guard it and use it wisely. This is known as **stewardship**.

Buddhism

Buddhists believe in the **interconnectedness** of all things. Humans depend on nature and nature depends on humans. Harming one part of this whole is the same as harming all of it. Therefore, if people learn to live simply and in harmony with the world, the whole of the environment will benefit.

Humanists

Because there is no God or supernatural force, human beings must take sole responsibility for solving the world's environmental problems. Only humans are capable of finding the solutions that can lead to a sustainable existence.

Sikhism

The Guru Granth Sahib teaches that Sikhs show respect and responsibility towards creation and bear in mind the needs of future generations, as well as their own current needs.

Islam

Allah made the Earth and humans have the duty as **Khalifahs** to care for it and maintain **fitrah** (natural balance) in the world.

Hinduism

Everything around us is part of the Earth and nature. We should practice **Ahimsa** - the principle of non-violence - with the Earth. Also, all living things in the natural world are sacred because they are part of God.



Hinduism and Caring for Animals

- In Hinduism, we are ALL animals and humans are ALL deserving of life and protection and God loves us all equally.
- Hindus follow the teachings of **Ahimsa** which means no harm to any living being. For this reason Hindus do not eat meat and are vegetarian.
- They believe if you make animals suffer you will get bad karma which will make you have a bad rebirth.
- All animals have souls which will potentially become humans when re-incarnated or reborn. If you test on or kill animals you are harming life.
- Many of the main gods have an animal form or an elephant as a vehicle. For example Ganesha, one of the most popular Gods is an elephant and Shiva has an eagle as a companion. This shows the high status that animals are given.

"One is dearest to God who has no enemies among the living beings, who is nonviolent to all creatures". Bhagavad Gita (Hindu holy book)

Complete the Seneca revision to prepare more fully for your assessment: **You will find the link to the assignment in your Class Charts and in Mrs Adair's RPE Teams**



Islam and Stewardship

- All Muslims believe that Allah created, owns and sustains the world.
- The survival of the planet depends upon Muslims maintaining the natural **fitrah** (balance).
- Muslims see it as their **duty** to use their skills to help keep the balance in the world.
- When they die, Muslims will have to prove how well they have looked after the world and whether they have been a good **khalifah** (guardian) in order to get into **paradise**.
- Muhammad set a good example by showing kindness to animals (a part of Allah's creation).

Judaism and Sukkoth

- Ancient Israelites (Jewish people) escaped Egyptian slavery and spent 40 years travelling to try to find a land to call their own
- Because they spent many years without their own land, having land and what the land provides is very important to Jews
- The celebrate this during the festival of Sukkoth
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CuBu5eV5P_E



Christianity and Stewardship

- Christians believe that if they live sensibly and in partnership with the earth, that it will bring them closer to God (in fact, it will get them into heaven).
- Celebrations and **worship** remind Christians of their duty as **stewards** (e.g.: harvest festival).
- Caring for the world and the environment is one of the **purposes** or main jobs of humans on earth.
- Humans have a special **responsibility** as **stewards** to look after the planet for God. They do, however, have **dominion** (power) over animals. This means that they can use animals, but not abuse them.