

Grade 8 Term 3**Topic: Health, social and environmental responsibility****Environmental health issues:**

- **Application of laws and policies** to protect environmental health: address an environmental issue
- **Earth Day** (April 22): preservation of the environment
- Honouring Earth Day: ways of **being kinder to Earth**
- Develop and implement an **environmental health programme**



The **Covid-19 pandemic** triggered a wake-up call around the world:

our **health** and **resistance to disease** is in jeopardy,

as is the **health of Earth** as a whole.

for example

We depend on bees to **pollinate the plants** that then go on to produce our fruits, nuts, seeds and grains.

Yet this tiny, hard-working insect is in danger!

Bee populations are collapsing all around the world mainly due to **the use of chemicals in industrialised agriculture and loss of habitat.**

The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) invites everyone to celebrate the role of bees with the following theme:

Bee engaged – Build Back Better for Bees



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



<http://www.fao.org/world-bee-day/en/>



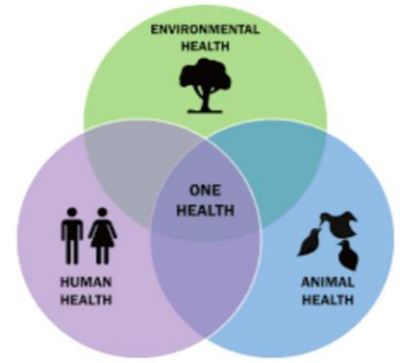
Guidelines for farmers include:

- Support *regenerative* animal friendly *farming* methods which encourage good soil quality and healthy growth of grasses and other naturally occurring plants **endemic** and/or **indigenous** to each specific area.
- Allow natural habitats to regenerate and set aside more land for nature.

**Refer to
Lesson Plan
Grade 5 Term 3
Slide 22
for Regenerative
Farming**



We know now that **human** health, **animal** health and **environmental** health are interconnected.



The concept of **One Health** is endorsed by the *World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)* and the *World Health Organisation (WHO)*.



One Health recognizes the **interconnection** between the health of people, animals, plants and their shared environment with the health of each being inextricably dependent on the health of the other.

Mental Health *is part of overall health*



According to the *World Health Organisation*, **depression is the world's leading mental health issue** affecting 1 in 5 adolescents internationally.*

Many social scientists say that **our loss of contact with nature** is partly responsible for the growing occurrence of anxiety and depression and that **direct exposure to nature is essential for physical and emotional health.**



F Forest Bathing [in Japan]

Forest bathing came into being in Japan in the 1980's as a form of **ecotherapy**.



Since then, studies on the physiological benefits of forest bathing support what we all innately know: it doesn't have to be a forest... **a simple walk in the natural world is good enough...** *it calms us and reduces stress.*

 www.nationalgeographic.com | Magazine: Call to the Wild

S Solastalgia

Solastalgia is a new word to describe the **distress and pain we experience** with the realization that our home Earth is under assault and is becoming unhomely for its inhabitants whether by...

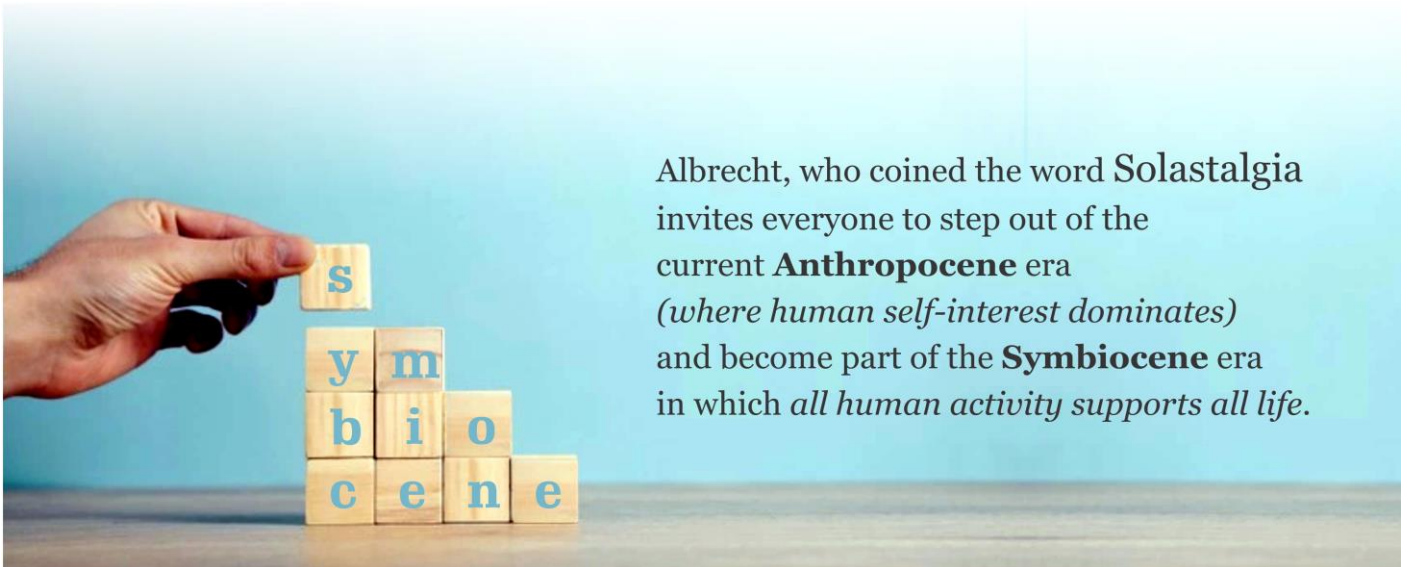


***climate change,
deforestation,
sea pollution or
loss of biodiversity.***

The Remedy



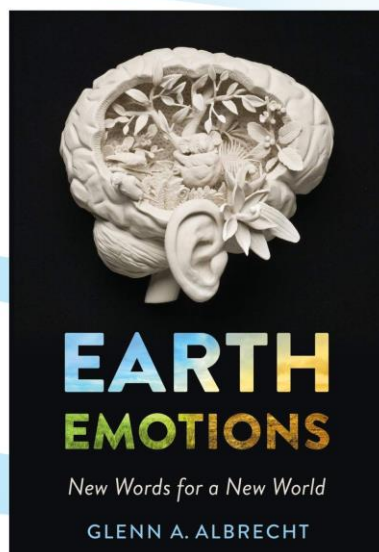
But the remedy is right in front of us, says geoscientist **Glenn Albrecht** whose work on *New Words for a New World* has been endorsed by the UN.



Albrecht, who coined the word **Solastalgia** invites everyone to step out of the current **Anthropocene** era (*where human self-interest dominates*) and become part of the **Symbiocene** era in which *all human activity supports all life.*

Says Albrecht:

‘To repair and restore this Earth before mass human and nonhuman misery is now the highest good that I can think of. There is nothing else that comes even close.’



More **G**ood News...

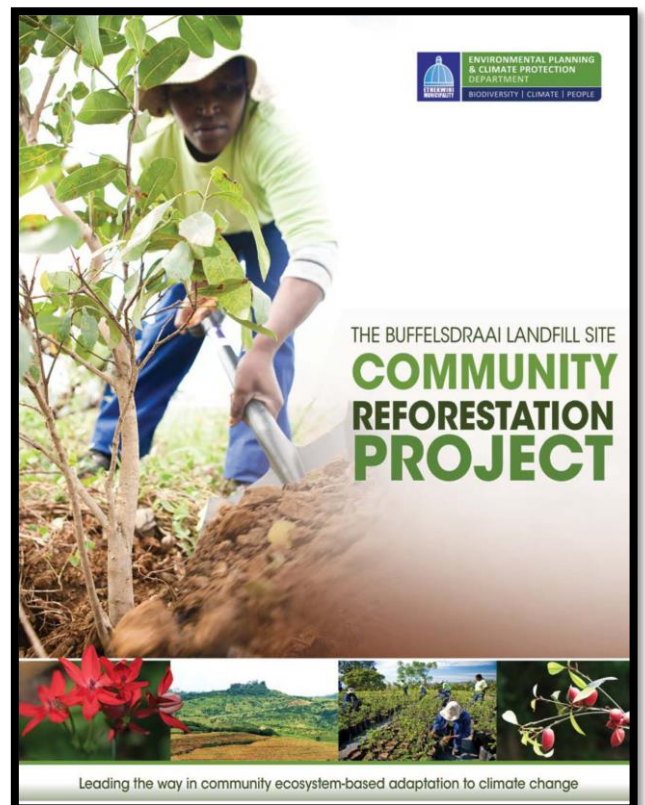
You don't have to exploit nature (including animals) to make money
The transition to a global economic model to slow down climate change and create "green" jobs is already underway...



For example:
An ugly landfill site 25km north of Durban city in KZN has become a model for global inspiration.

Named the ***Buffelsdraai Community Reforestation Project***, it has achieved the restoration of the former forest habitat with the planting of some 500 000 indigenous trees.

The programme has assisted some 319 unemployed people to become "***Treepreneurs***" with small-scale indigenous tree nurseries at their homes.





‘The trees we grow can be traded for food, bicycles, school fees, building materials and so on. It depends on what we want. I traded the trees I grew for bicycles, which I sell to make extra money. I also needed money to pay for school fees. The trees help to give us a better life, but it’s the children who benefit the most.’

— Bongiwe Hlatshwayo

Bongiwe Hlatshwayo is seen here in her home nursery surrounded by the trees she has grown.

The project draws researchers from around the world to see *global warming mitigation and the restoration of ecosystems in action.*

 www.en.wikipedia.org | Buffelsdraai Landfill Site Community Reforestation Project

Class Exercise

Try to become involved in a **restoration** and **rewilding project** in your own community.



Research how the reabsorption into the soil of the global warming gas *Carbon Dioxide* occurs through regenerative agriculture, restoration of grasslands, and reforestation.

Read more about the United Nations strategic plan for forests, 2017-2030



 www.un.org | Global-Forest-Goals-booklet-Apr-2019

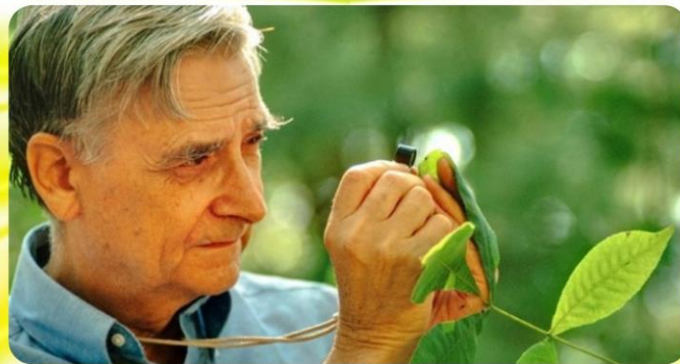


Class Exercise



Read up on Google

about the legendary conservation biologist
E O Wilson whose suggestion that
half of planet Earth be reserved for nature,
is now being taken seriously by scientists globally.



Technology

Technology has made it possible for us to become aware of the sentience of animals more than at any other time in history.

For example, using advanced technology, scientists recently identified 65 animal species – mammals and birds - that emit vocalizations similar to human laughter.

This forces us to re-evaluate our relationship with animals...

 www.livescience.com | Do animals laugh?



D

escartes Debunked

For centuries we have been influenced by the philosopher *René Descartes* and others who believed that animals are like machines with no emotional intelligence at all and responsive only to stimuli...

‘ Animals operate like machines, cannot reason, cannot feel pain, do not have consciousness and are not sentient. ’

— Descartes



FACTORY FARMING X

Descartes' influence made it easy to **commodify animals into units of production** as part of industrialised agriculture.



But with the aid of technology, **research** by scientists over the last 30 years **has debunked Descartes.**

Class Exercise



Research the
psychological impact that results
when we commodify Earth and 'Others'...

 www.orionmagazine.com | If nature had rights

Write about your understanding of what Environmental Lawyer **Cormac Cullinan** says.

A series of horizontal dashed lines for writing.

Rights for 'Others'

On the strength of our burgeoning awareness of the depth and complexity of nonhuman lives, **lawyers around the world are arguing for basic rights for the 'others' that journey through life with us.**

This process has already started.

For example, in 2016...



Justice Sisi Khampepe and her fellow judges at the South African Constitutional Court, reminded us that:

Animal have **intrinsic value** as individuals

Animals are **sentient beings** capable of suffering and experiencing pain

Guardianship of the interests of animals reflects constitutional values and is in the interests of society at large

Animal **protection safeguards** the moral status of humans and the degeneration of human values





Picture: International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW).(EPA)

‘In a seismic shift that will send shock waves through many areas of SA’s **wildlife** industry, the Cabinet has endorsed a report calling for the end of lion farming, captive lion hunting, cub-petting and the commercial farming of rhinos.’

— Daily Maverick

www.dailymaverick.co.za | Canned hunting canned: Minister Creecy announces ‘new deal’ for South Africa’s wildlife industry

‘Animals are to be formally recognised as sentient beings in **UK law** for the first time, in a victory for animal welfare campaigners, as the government set out a suite of animal welfare measures including halting most live animal exports and banning the import of hunting trophies.’

— The Guardian



www.theguardian.com | Animals to be formally recognised as sentient beings in UK law

Class Debate

Appoint members of the class to debate the following issue:
Should trophy hunting be banned on a global basis?

UN Secretary-General António Guterres has called for commitment to **restoring the planet**, and to **making peace with nature**.

He does not mince his words.

He says:

‘*Our war on Nature has left the planet broken. Nature is striking back with growing force and fury. Making peace with nature is the defining task of the 21st century. It must be the top, top priority for everyone, everywhere.*’



According to the UN's Environmental Report, we face:

- the **collapse of biodiversity** with one million of Earth's 8 million species of plants and animals threatened with extinction
- the **disappearance of ecosystems** with only 15% of Earth's wetlands remaining intact
- the **loss of** 10 million hectares of **forests** annually
- **oceans** that are **overfished** and choked with **plastic waste**
- **air** and **water pollution** that is killing 9 million people annually

 www.news.un.org | Climate change