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Environmental Science

FOR
DUMMIES[®]

Learn to:

- Apply concepts of environmental science to your life
- Supplement classroom learning with confidence
- Explore issues surrounding natural resources and sustainability
- Understand how the choices you make impact the environment

Alecia M. Spooner
Author of Geology For Dummies



Environmental Science For Dummies®

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by Alecia M. Spooner



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Alecia M. Spooner teaches Earth and environmental sciences at Everett Community College in Everett, Washington. She has degrees in anthropology (a BA from the University of Mississippi), archaeology (an MA from Washington State University), and geology (an MS from the University of Washington). In graduate school, she reconstructed paleoclimate and paleoenvironments from fossil pollen records in lake sediments of the Pacific Northwest. She teaches by using active learning and inquiry. She lives in Shoreline, Washington, with her husband, two boys, a cat, and two chickens.

Dedication

To the many teachers who inspired me to look at the world more closely.

“We shall never achieve harmony with land, any more than we shall achieve absolute justice or liberty for people. In these higher aspirations, the important thing is not to achieve but to strive.”

—Aldo Leopold

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Introduction

Environmental science is the study of Earth's environment. To study the environment, scientists draw from many other disciplines, including chemistry, geography, economics, and everything in between. No wonder students new to environmental science often find themselves dizzy at the breadth of information needed to study and solve environmental problems.

Fortunately, you've found *Environmental Science For Dummies!* Regardless of whether you picked up this book to help you through a science class or to begin an independent exploration of environmental science, I hope it's a useful reference for you, providing an introduction to the most important concepts and issues in modern environmental science.

I've written this book to cover as many environmental science concepts as possible, while at the same time helping you understand how these concepts apply to your life. If you're already familiar with some of the topics explained in the book, perhaps this book will help renew your interest in environmental studies and sustainable living. If these topics are completely new to you, I hope it helps you realize that you can take action daily and make choices that affect your environment in a positive way.

About This Book

Environmental Science For Dummies presents an introduction to the core concepts in environmental science and the most important issues studied by environmental scientists today.