

A hand holds a magnifying glass over a forest scene. The lens of the magnifying glass shows a detailed view of a forest path with tall trees and green foliage. The title 'EcoMedia & Perception' is written in a white serif font across the center of the lens. The background of the entire image is a blurred forest scene.

EcoMedia & Perception

By Marrilyn Galvan, Jacob Melkus, Steven Le, Charley Jumonville, and Abubakar Hussein



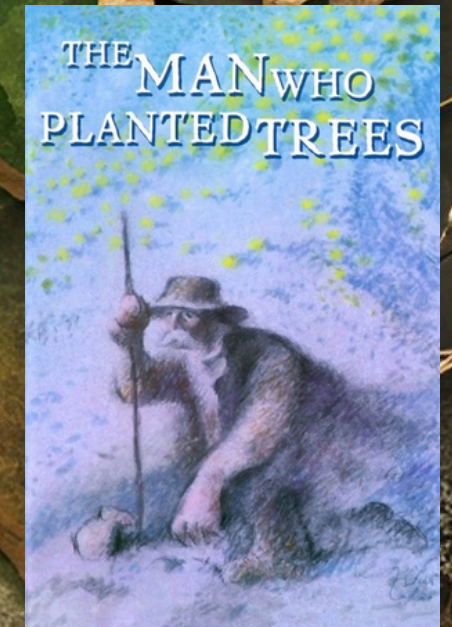
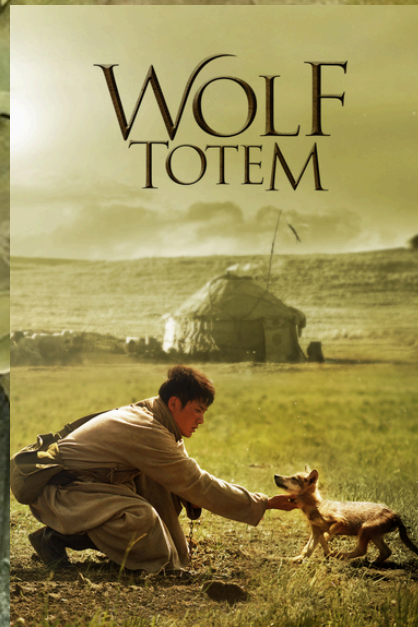
25 Environmental Films, Music, and Other Forms of Media Everyone Should Explore

An environmental movement across genres, cultures, and generations.

Watch and rediscover nature through cultural diversity in media curated by Students from the Humanities Lab and Planetizing Citizenship at Arizona State University. Team members picked 25 films and other media and separated them into groups based on their top five choices.

The 25 films reflect diverse environmental cultures that discuss concerns related to climate change, environmental narratives, and planetary citizenship. The visual knowledge and topics gained through these films remain "crucial to addressing the anthropogenic factors contributing to increasingly extreme weather-related events (drought, fire, hurricanes, melting glaciers, and warming and rising oceans)" (Adamson 135). Not only extreme weather but the effects of human action towards marginalized communities and wildlife. The ecosystem remains significantly impacted by human activity, and we as a species ourselves should ask if animals, plants, and landscapes should have rights? Can we learn from the natural world? And how can we reconnect with the environment through film?





A Journey from Human to Nature Experience in Film

In an age of forgetfulness, this particular selection of films revives the spirit of coexistence with nature. For this reason, these films provide a representation of how cinematic storytelling from the use of visuals, music, and sensory elements may offer an understanding of the environmental urgency of how humanity impacts the place all living beings call home. The planet is faced with rapid transformation and loss of ecological communities, “ancestral knowledge systems, animate worldviews,” and the “acknowledge[ment] that “human and planetary survival are one and the same” (Silova). The question is, what if these types of films preserve human-to-nature reconnection that could help aid our environmental awareness by learning from these narratives? These films have the potential to advocate and educate viewers about environmental spaces and what it means to learn from Indigenous lands, the importance of keystone species like the wolves, an insight into the sea’s marine ecosystem, deforestation for urban development, and how planting trees can bring life back to an unlivable place.

“Humans may be considered as geological agents, and anthropogenic environmental change may be compared with events in Earth’s deep history.”

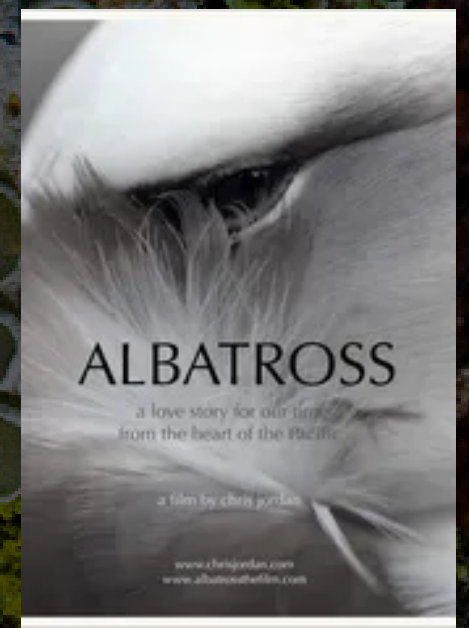
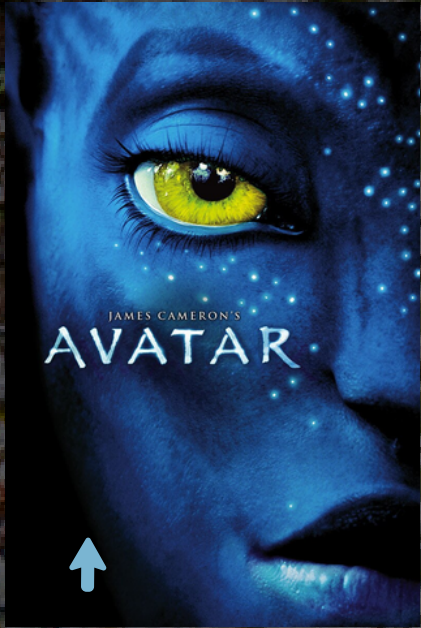
-Jan Zalasiewicz, Mark Williams, and Colin N. Waters, “Anthropocene,” *Keywords for Environmental Studies* (2016)



Is it time to reassess our relationship with nature? BBC Ideas (2020)

Threats Classification
Scheme - REDLIST





How Film Connects Us and Calls for Reflection

Each of these five films has a different audience, style, and message that ranges from educational, experimental artistry, science fiction, and children's animation to international cinema. But what these films have in common is how the message is to consider our relationship to nature and what complex systems surround us. Having a relationship with nature means the context in which our earth's systems have been cultivated and how people can live their lives with an environmental ethic conducive to coexistence. Most of these films have some aspect of wonder for life. So, from this, audiences learn how to tap into their curiosity and witness life through a cathartic and truthful scope. Carefully consider how these environmental films can help you see the world from a different perspective.

“The abundance of biodiversity is simultaneously its greatest [challenge]; despite several centuries of biological investigation, we still have no exact idea of how many different species share the planet with us. Best estimates range between five and ten million; the number could be as high as one hundred million (May 1988; May 1990).”

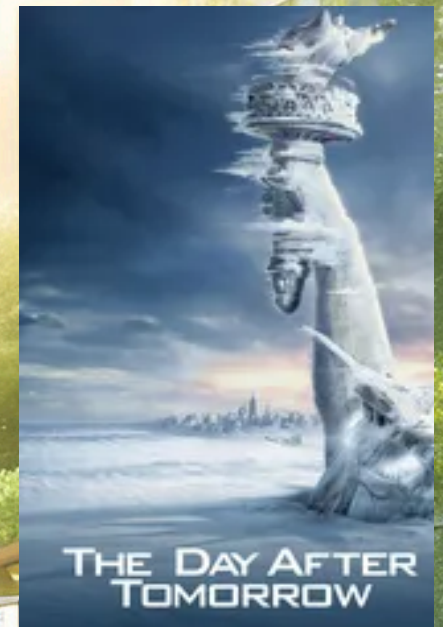
-Andy Dobson, “Biodiversity,” *Keywords for Environmental Studies* (2016)



Why is biodiversity important - with Sir David Attenborough (2021)

[IUCN Red List](#)



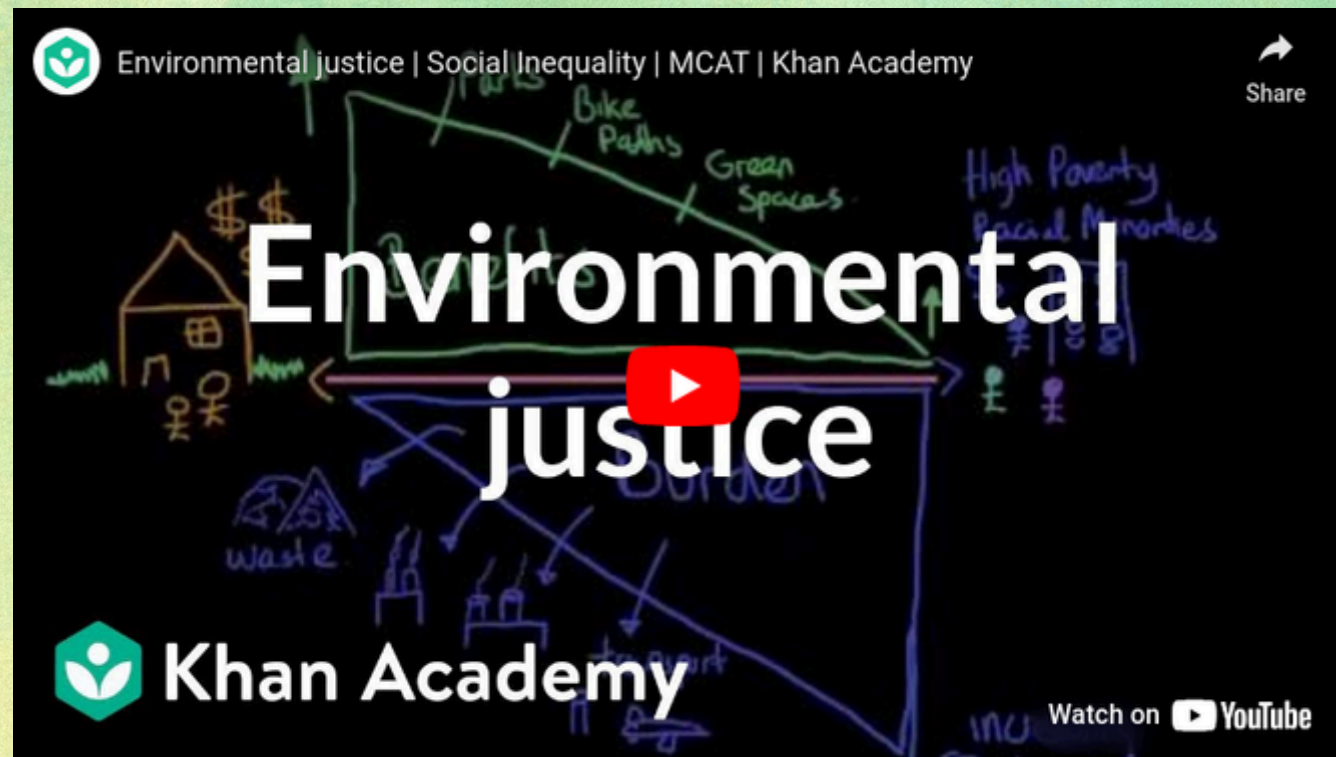


Generation Z Films that Display Environmental Issues and Inspire Environmental Justice

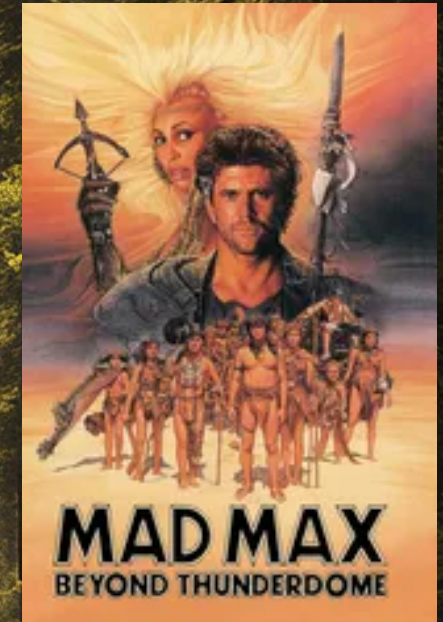
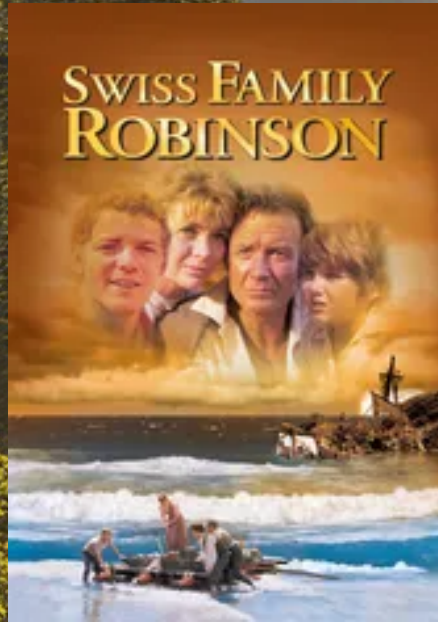
These films are all relatively new and range from the early 2000s to 2024, and which appeal to the new generation of children and teens because each of these films portrays some sort of environmental issue from the Climate Crisis and the need for environmental justice. People tend to overlook concerns linked to the loss of environmental life and the right to a healthy environment for humans and animals. These films showcase these environmental issues, especially within the youth demographic. An underlying concern with the youth is that they might only focus on the action and plot of the films and not the real issues. For instance, the film “Isle of Dogs” portrays a group of dogs that habit a island that is used as a landfill, younger viewers may only see the plot of the dogs but fail to see that landfills like these actual exist and do present a current issue in the environment and its inhabitants. The films portray these environmental issues that could encourage the youth of today to create awareness. Being able to see what issues are currently ongoing globally or in their communities and how advocating for the environment can be proactive for the planet and for environmental justice all via the use of Film/Media.

“Activists Argue that the effects of climate change are borne most severely by impoverished and marginalized communities across the globe, the people who are least responsible for creating the harmful pollution from fossil energy and who benefit least from the economic development and wealth it produces.

- Giovanna Di Chiro, “Environmental Justice,” *Keywords for Environmental Studies* (2016)



Environmental Justice, Social Inequality , MCAT, Khan Academy



How We Live Our Life: Nature vs. Society in Film

Modern technologies have completely transformed how we live our lives. Nowadays, most people can't even imagine what it would be like to live without their phones, computers, or cars. But, what if society were to collapse? What if you were to get stranded on an island? Or, what if you're somebody who just doesn't want to live by society's standards? These questions are all explored in these five films. *Swiss Family Robinson* tells the story of a family who gets stranded on an island after their ship wrecks; forcing them to have to learn how to live off of the land on the island. In *Captain Fantastic* and *Into the Wild*, the main characters instead choose to reject society and live in the wilderness, only going to society to steal food or visit family members. In *Mad Max* and *Don't Look Up*, overconsumption and ignorance plunges society into apocalyptic and dystopian scenarios. Even though each of these films show a different scenario or way of living; they resemble each other in how they depict a human reliance on the land. As humans, it's important for us to understand that we need the land to survive. Earth gives us food, shelter, and oxygen. And if we're not careful, all of these resources could be depleted. If not for us, maybe our kids, or our grandkids. Ultimately, these films help to bring awareness to how we live our lives and how important the Earth really is.

“Our understanding of the environment is first and foremost informed by our experience of place - the geographic location where we live, work, and interact with nature and people. Our identity, culture, history, and politics are bound up in a sense of place.”

-Wendy Harcourt, “Place,” *Keywords for Environmental Studies* (2016)



What is Sense of Place, Architecture Lessons, #14 (2024)



The Environmental Influence of Taking Action

These five documentary films were released in the early mid-2000s and center on similar conditions relating to humans' relationships to the land, air, and water. These particular sets of films were chosen to uncover how different people and wildlife are experiencing environmental change to their health. The films explore real-life experiences and data to address the environmental effects of pollution. The statistics that these films release do apply to the future of younger generations. Learning about important topics like global warming and climate change is important because of the timeline these films were released. Knowing these effects can help children spark conversations, think about future generations, and collectively discover new sustainable solutions for the future. Visuals of the environment help the youth to see people actively go out and campaign and attempt to have a positive impact that inspires children to watch these films and look towards the future.

A truly sustainable society is one where wider questions of social needs and welfare, and economic opportunity are integrally related environmental limits imposed by supporting ecosystems.”

-Wendy Harcourt, “Sustainability,” *Keywords for Environmental Studies* (2016)

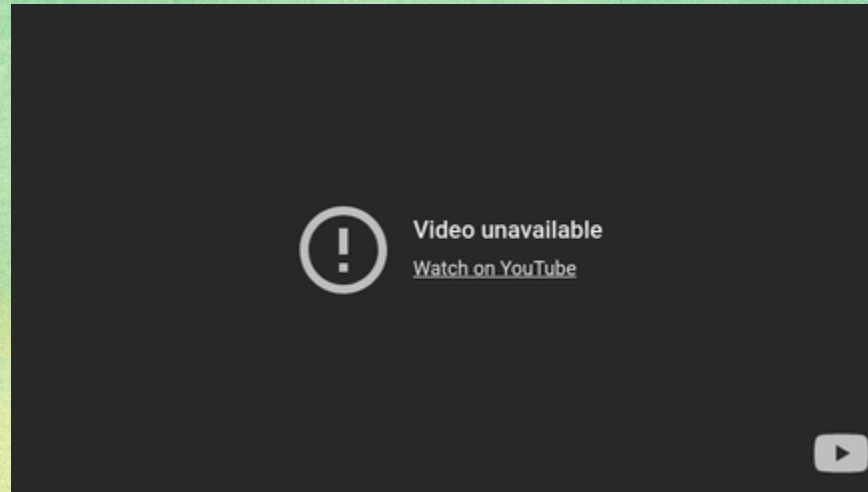


What is Sustainable Development and Why is it Important? Waterpedia (2017)

Environmentalism in Music 1990's



A Hard Day on the Planet (1986)
By Loudon Wainwright III



Earth Song (1995)
By Michael Jackson



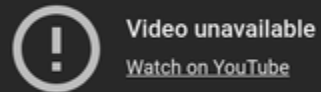
Ka Uluwehi O Ke Kai (1992)
By Hapa

SDG #16: Sustainable Cities
and Communities

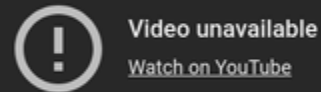
SDG #13: Climate Change

SDG #14: Life Below Water

Environmentalism in Music 2000's



Big Yellow Taxi (2002)
By Counting Crow



Earth (2019)
By Lil Dicky




Plants Music Vol I (2021)
By Modern Biology

SDG #16: Peace Justice and Strong Institutions

SDG #12: Responsible Consumption and Production

SDG# 15: Life on Land



“The topic of nature was a major concern for our team and the human development that continues to impact all life on the planet. Film, music, and other forms of media are a way to experience connections, community, place, and change. Media is a source of visual and sensory relationships that invite people worldwide to travel and experience beauty and destruction. We hope that our selection of films will encourage planetary citizenship and scholarship.”

Marrilyn Galvan:
Narrative Studies

Charley Jumonville:
Interdisciplinary and Theater

Abubakar Hussein:
Global Health

Steven Le: Finance

Jacob Melkus:
Anthropology and Culture
Technology and the
Environment

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