

WHAT IS NATURE OR NATURAL?

** this question(s) may seem easy to answer, but it really depends on who you ask,

in what context, in relation to other topics of discussion,
the culture/society they live, etc

May actually be 2 different questions to many people.

1) What is "Nature"?

2) What is "Natural"?

**Professor believes "everything on the planet is nature/natural" Our job to manage nature responsibly.

** I believe that most things on earth are natural, but sometimes humans change nature in the unnatural (buildings, cars, medicines, etc.)

- * to some "Nature" is **everything there is** on this planet or in the universe; every living organism, every rock, every molecule of matter that exists, is a part of "Nature"
- * Others may describe "Nature" as only the 'things' in a forest, or jungle, or in the ocean ...,and not include a city landscape, or the areas or 'things' in a building, ...

So again, What is "Nature"?

OR

What is "Natural" vs "Unnatural"?

What is "Natural" vs "Human-made"?

Can an object or an activity really be "Unnatural"?

* Many would argue that Humans are not a part of "Nature"; that we are separate and also better than "Nature, that we are here to control 'Nature', and that Human activities are not "Natural".

* Building a road, a house, a city, or polluting a river or the air are "Unnatural" acts.

EX: the building of a dam to slow or stop the flow of a stream or river, and create a body of water behind it that wasn't there before.

Is this "Natural" (a part of Nature) or is it "Unnatural"?

* consider the scenario below:

(Scene: the sight of a dam being built along a stream.)

"That's one of the best dams we have ever built. Strong, sturdy and in just the right location. This will make a fine lake for our purposes."

(The scene is an ant hill some 20 yards from the stream.)

Soldier ant: "Sir, we need to issue a flood warning. The stream has left its banks and the water is headed this way."

Ant Captain: "Alert the workers to prepare to move the colony."

(A few minutes later.)

Soldier ant: "Sir, the water is rising faster. What should we do?"

Ant Captain: "Get everything out. Hurry. Get to the lifeboats. Women and children first."

(Ants haven't developed 'women's lib' yet, so the women are held in higher esteem & not treated as equals.)

Soldier ant: "Sir, the water is flooding the tunnels."

Ant Captain: "The heck with the women and children, get the eggs out!"

Ant General: "No, no. Get the Queen out! Get the Queen!"

(Meanwhile at the house of the Mouse family, Junior comes running in all out of breath.)

"Daddy, Daddy. The stream is flooding."

Father mouse: "What the ...? It hasn't rained in 3 days."

Junior: "I think it was that big monster I saw. He was building something across the stream."

Father mouse: "Damn."

Junior: "Yes, that's what it was."

Father mouse: "I'll bet it was one of those @#*% beavers.

They move in and right away start changing everything and mess it up. We ought to get rid of them. Maybe I'll just go over and gnaw their legs off."

** for discussion: Do humans get upset or cry "Unnatural" when a beaver builds a dam and displaces dozens of animals?

NOOOOOOOOOO!

OR If the inundation caused by the pond drowns poor, defenseless trees, flowers and other vegetation?

NOOOOOOOOOO!