

Human Changes to the Environment

Read the text then answer the questions below:

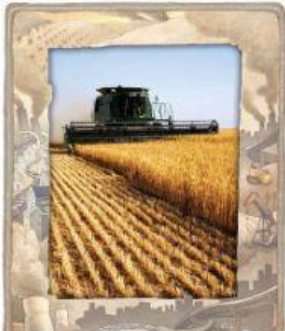
Every plant and animal in a natural ecosystem depends on other plants or animals for its survival (lb. rom. *supraviețuire*). For example, a butterfly depends on a flower's nectar for food. At the same time, a flower depends on butterflies and other insects to spread its pollen.

Thousands of years ago, early humans were like all other living things in nature. They were just another part of the natural food chain (lb. rom. *lanț trofic*). They hunted animals and gathered plants for food. They made shelters and clothing using the materials in their environment. Most importantly, they used only what they needed for basic survival.

However, humans also had the ability to create and use technology. At first, they used simple technology, like tools made of stone and wood. These tools made it easier to hunt, build, and do other things for survival.



Humans used tools made of stone and wood.

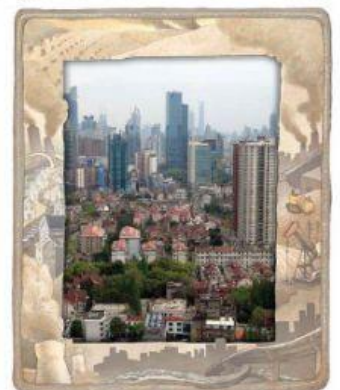


Technology for harvesting food improved over time.

Over time, technology improved. Humans learned to create and use machines. Instead of hunting animals, they learned to raise animals like cows and chickens for food. Instead of gathering nuts, berries (lb. rom. *fructe de padure*), and roots (lb. rom. *rădăcini*), they learned to grow their own crops (lb. rom. *recolte*). In other words, humans learned to change and control some parts of nature in order to meet their needs. With technology, humans were able to change the environment (lb. rom. *mediul înconjurător*). The land in this picture may have been a forest or natural grassland. Now, instead, it is a wheat (lb. rom. *grâu*) field. Insects and other organisms still live in the soil and feed on the wheat plants. However, this is not what you might call a natural field. Humans planted the seeds in this field and humans decide when to harvest the crops to make food.

The land beneath (lb. rom. *sub*) any town or city was once a natural ecosystem. Then, humans came along and used technology to change the natural environment. There are some trees, grass, and flowers in a city. But they are only there because people want them there. Some animals, like squirrels and birds, also live in cities alongside humans. But these creatures had to learn to survive in an environment created by humans.

Now, with all our cities and technology, it is sometimes easy for us to forget about nature and ecosystems. It is easy for us to think of nature as something we can visit, but not something we are really part of.



People used technology to create cities.

<https://www.readworks.org/article/Human-Changes-to-the-Environment/1fbc53b9-e320-4134-ac3b-fa24cfa3c10c#!vocabularySection:environment/questionsetsSection:22807/articleTab:content/>

1. Join the correct answers with arrows:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| a. Ecosystem | 1. collect |
| b. Survival | 2. a system formed by the interaction of organisms with their environment. |
| c. Gather | 3. the ground or earth |
| d. Soil | 4. the act of staying alive |

2. Are these sentences true or false?

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| a. Nowadays plants and animals don't need each other to stay alive. | True | False |
| b. In the past, humans were part of the food chain. | True | False |
| c. People cannot control the environment with technology. | True | False |
| d. People still need nature to survive. | True | False |