

Our existence, lifestyles and growth depend entirely on the sun and the earth. The energy from the sun is called solar capital. In the same way, the planets, air, water, fertile soil, forests, grasslands, wetlands, oceans, lakes, wildlife, minerals and natural purification and recycling process are treated as Earth's capital. We use the term 'environment' to describe, in the language of G.T Miller, The Plant's life - support system for us and for all other forms of life'. In effect, the environment is the sum-total of solar capital and earth capital. It also includes the thing created by humans. Environment now extends far beyond the bounds of the local environment, thus it is the intimate enclosure of the individual or a local human population and the global domain of the human species. Ecology as a discipline is focused on studying the interactions between an organism of some kind and its environment. In ecology, 'niche' refers to the role an organism or species play in its ecosystem. An organism's niche includes everything affected by the organism during its lifetime. We study ecology to learn how nature works. So ecology is a study to achieve a new goal to help scientists to develop methods to protect the natural world - physical environment.

Man is clearly an animal. His heart, intestine, liver, lungs differ little from the corresponding organs of cat, a dog or a monkey. His respiration, digestion, reproduction muscle contraction, nerve or endocrine co-ordination follow the same general processes and same general chemical and physical relations that one finds in animals. If subjected to classification there is no difficulty in recognizing that man is a vertebrate and hence belongs to the phylum chordata. Among the vertebrates he obviously belongs with the class of mammals. He is bipedal using only his hind legs for locomotion but this is also true of Kangaroos. Men, monkeys and apes are very similar in anatomy. Ecologists concerned with the study of various eco-systems regard man chiefly as a disturbing element in it, and it is this growing attitude on the growing reality of man's

disturbing tendency that has given rise to the academic interest in man-nature relations. When Darwin published the *Descent of Man* (1871) he did not know of any human fossils. He built his case for human evolution entirely on evidence from living men and living primates, and he thought the great break in the Organic chain between apes and man might never be bridged because of the imperfect nature of the fossil record. In late 1920s and early 1930s a series of man-like fossils were found in a cave deposit near Choukoutou in China, 42 miles from Peking (Beijing). These were the remains of what came to be called as the Peking man or *Sinanthropus*. In subsequent years a variety of hominid fossils were discovered mostly in Africa. These do not form a neat chain of links leading from ancient ape to modern man. They cannot be arranged in a single sequence and it appears that a considerable variety of man-like animals lived at different times and places in the Pleistocene. The Pleistocene was short as geological periods go, and it was also peculiar in having great four waves of glaciation around their way much across North America and Europe, and particular events are dated with reference to these glacial and interglacial periods, although absolute time range remains uncertain.