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The living and non-living environment: Spaceship Earth

Questions to stimulate reflection

Do you think anthropocentrism can ever be 'enlightened'? What do you think of the claim that environmentalism *depends* on anthropocentrism?

Do *all* living things have intrinsic value? Even cockroaches? How might this claim be justified?

Does the non-living environment have intrinsic value? How can this be the case?

What would you say to someone who argued that environmental ethics is new-fangled nonsense?

Is it acceptable for human beings to create totally new life forms?

Is global warming the work of humans? If so should we try to reverse it, mitigate it or learn to live with it?

Do you think it matters that so many species are dying out despite its having happened before without causing (us) too many problems?

Do you think the use of genetic engineering, cloning or synthetic biology to preserve biodiversity is morally permissible?

Do you think it is morally unacceptable for human beings to 'play God'?