

AP Environmental Science
Summer Assignment & Summer Reading List
Mrs. Hock

Welcome to AP Environmental Science, commonly known as APES. For this summer, here are some ways to “GO APES.” None are required; all are fun. Continue reading for the suggested summer reading list.

- 🌍 Instead of driving, ride a bike or take a walk
- 🌍 Get wet in a downpour (not in a thunderstorm)
- 🌍 Follow a stream to its headwaters
- 🌍 Follow a stream to its mouth
- 🌍 Speaking of water, where does yours come from?
- 🌍 Watch an ant colony
- 🌍 Study the waves at the beach
- 🌍 Go into the marsh and smell decomposition at work
- 🌍 Solve the local deer overpopulation problem
- 🌍 Visit the Montgomery County recycling facility (sadly, superior to Fairfax County’s)
- 🌍 Watch the Discovery Channel
- 🌍 Figure out why dew forms on the grass at night, but not every night
- 🌍 Research what “Code Red” days mean
- 🌍 Compare star counts in Vienna vs. your vacation spot (required: lay on your back)
- 🌍 Climb Old Rag Mountain or another metamorphic stalwart
- 🌍 Look up what “metamorphic” means
- 🌍 Play around with Google Earth
- 🌍 Grow your favorite vegetable
- 🌍 Look at a big tree and determine where all that mass came from
- 🌍 Go fishing – catch a snakehead
- 🌍 Follow the path of your favorite gem or precious metal from mine to your ring finger
- 🌍 Pretend that you have no electricity for an evening
- 🌍 Where does your electricity come from, and why does it matter?
- 🌍 Camp out, even if it’s in your back yard
- 🌍 Pick berries
- 🌍 Use sunscreen regularly
- 🌍 Change your light bulbs to CFC’s
- 🌍 Compare your car’s interior to the greenhouse effect
- 🌍 Watch some birds or bats
- 🌍 Compare the color and ‘blinking’ patterns of different fireflies
- 🌍 Visit a farm, or at least the farmer’s market (every Saturday, 8-12, at the Vienna Caboose)
- 🌍 Have a septic tank? How does it work?
- 🌍 Read the Wall Street Journal
- 🌍 Tired of the phrase “going green?” Come up with another term.
- 🌍 Buying organic food? Not buying organic food? Does it matter?
- 🌍 At the pool? Figure out how many gallons of water it takes to fill.

Summer reading list

Environmental science has a problem. That “problem” is that it’s an immense field of study. Not only is it a science in the traditional sense, but it’s complicated by societies, opinions, government, beliefs, economics, laws, and ethics. If you want to succeed in APES, you’ll need to constantly embrace this inter-disciplinary perspective. The list of books below is by no means presenting an agenda of any kind. It’s nothing more than a mix of books demonstrating the variety of environmental topics. Agree, disagree, like, or dislike, it’s up to you. By the way, go to the library and borrow these books. Save some paper, save some cash.

Your assignment is to pick one of these books listed below and read it over the summer. When you finish reading it write up a brief summary (1-2 pages) and e-mail it to me mhock@pasco.k12.fl.us. Please make sure you put your name on the document and APES summer assignment on the subject line. This can be done at any time but should be completed before the first day of school for an **extra credit assignment**.

***A Sand County Almanac*, by Aldo Leopold**

***Ishmael*, by Daniel Quinn**

***Maiden Voyage*, by Tania Aebi**

***The Omnivore’s Dilemma*, by Michael Pollan**

***Silent Spring*, by Rachel Carson**

***The World Without Us*, by Alan Weisman**

***Field Notes From a Catastrophe* by Elizabeth Kolbert,**

***Our Ecological Footprint* by Wackernagel and Rees**

***Diet for a Small Planet* by Frances Moore**

***The Diversity of Life* by Edward O. Wilson**

***Degrees of Disaster: Prince William Sound: How Nature Reels and Rebounds* by Jeff Wheelwright**

***Earth Under Siege: From Air Pollution to Global Change* by Richard Turco**

***Tracking the Vanishing Frogs: An Ecological Mystery* by Kathryn Phillips**

***Fat of the Land: The Garbage behind New York—The Last Two Hundred Years* by Benjamin Miller**

***The Sixth Extinction: Patterns of Life and the Future of Humankind* by Roger Lewin and Richard Leakey**

***Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion* by Loree Griffen Burns**