



The Biophilia Hypothesis (Shearwater Book)

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"Biophilia" is the term coined by Edward O. Wilson, author of *The Diversity of Life* and winner of two Pulitzer prizes, to describe what he believes is our innate affinity for the natural world. In his landmark book *Biophilia*, he examined how our tendency to focus on life and lifelike processes might be a biologically based need, integral to our development as individuals and as a species. The idea has caught the imagination of diverse thinkers. The Biophilia Hypothesis brings together the views of some of the most creative scientists of our time, each attempting to amplify and refine the concept of biophilia. The various perspectives - psychological, biological, cultural, symbolic, and aesthetic - frame the theoretical issues by presenting empirical evidence that supports or refutes the hypothesis. Numerous examples illustrate the idea that biophilia and its converse, biophobia, have a genetic component: people develop fear and even full-blown phobias of snakes and spiders with very little negative reinforcement, while more threatening modern artifacts - knives, guns, automobiles - rarely elicit such a response; people would rather look at water, green vegetation, or flowers than built structures of glass and concrete; and the development of language, myth, and thought appears to be greatly dependent on the use of natural symbols, particularly animals. The biophilia hypothesis, if substantiated, provides a powerful argument for the conservation of biological diversity. More important, it implies serious consequences for our well-being as society becomes further estranged from the natural world. Relentless environmental destruction could have a significant impact on our quality of life, not just materially but psychologically and even spiritually.

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The Biophilia Hypothesis (Shearwater Book) From Shearwater Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #135032 in Books
- Published on: 1995-03-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 1.30" w x 6.00" l, 1.50 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 496 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Why is it that most of us find baby animals irresistibly cute? Why do so many people fear even the sight of snakes? What prompts us to feed birds, to allow cats to roam around the house at will, to admire the lines of dogs and horses? Stephen Kellert and Edward Wilson, the prolific Harvard biologist, gather essays by various hands on these and other questions, and the result is a fascinating glimpse into our relations with other animals. Humans, Wilson writes, have an innate (or at least extremely ancient) connection to the natural world, and our continued divorce from it has led to the loss of not only "a vast intellectual legacy born of intimacy" with nature but also our very sanity. There is much to ponder in this timely book.

From Publishers Weekly

The editors draw together a collection of scholarly essays both supporting and refuting the biophilia concept, a term coined by Pulitzer Prize winner Wilson to describe humankind's innate affiliation with nature. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

This timely collection of essays represents a first attempt to substantiate the biophilia hypothesis--the theory that humans have an innate affiliation with other living organisms--introduced by Wilson in his earlier book *Biophilia* (Harvard Univ. Pr., 1984) and further considered in his recent *The Diversity of Life* (LJ 3/1/93). In the opening section, the editors categorize the different aspects of human behavior through which biophilia may be expressed. In the following chapters scientists from various disciplines review the relevant research, including scenic preference studies, evidence of therapeutic benefits from contact with animals and natural settings, and studies of cognitive functioning and language development in children and in hunter-gatherer cultures. Most of the contributors are committed conservationists concerned that our species will in its headlong rush for technological affluence discover too late how dependent the human personality is on biodiversity for emotional and spiritual health. Recommended for academic science collections and public libraries with a high interest in environmental studies.

- *Joan S. Elbers, formerly with Montgomery Coll., Rockville, Md.*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joseph Jenkins:

Book is to be different per grade. Book for children until finally adult are different content. We all know that that book is very important normally. The book *The Biophilia Hypothesis* (Shearwater Book) ended up being making you to know about other understanding and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The e-book *The Biophilia Hypothesis* (Shearwater Book) is not only giving you much more new information but also to become your friend when you really feel bored. You can spend your own spend time to read your guide. Try to make relationship using the book *The Biophilia Hypothesis* (Shearwater Book). You never really feel lose out for everything in case you read some books.

Cheryl Estrella:

The publication with title The Biophilia Hypothesis (Shearwater Book) has lot of information that you can learn it. You can get a lot of benefit after read this book. This particular book exist new know-how the information that exist in this guide represented the condition of the world right now. That is important to yo7u to learn how the improvement of the world. This particular book will bring you within new era of the internationalization. You can read the e-book on the smart phone, so you can read the item anywhere you want.

Avis Marguez:

In this age globalization it is important to someone to obtain information. The information will make professionals understand the condition of the world. The fitness of the world makes the information better to share. You can find a lot of references to get information example: internet, newspaper, book, and soon. You can view that now, a lot of publisher in which print many kinds of book. Often the book that recommended to you personally is The Biophilia Hypothesis (Shearwater Book) this reserve consist a lot of the information from the condition of this world now. That book was represented how does the world has grown up. The vocabulary styles that writer require to explain it is easy to understand. The particular writer made some investigation when he makes this book. That's why this book suited all of you.

Michael Santiago:

What is your hobby? Have you heard this question when you got college students? We believe that that problem was given by teacher to their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every person has different hobby. So you know that little person similar to reading or as looking at become their hobby. You need to know that reading is very important in addition to book as to be the factor. Book is important thing to add you knowledge, except your own personal teacher or lecturer. You see good news or update in relation to something by book. Numerous books that can you decide to try be your object. One of them is niagra The Biophilia Hypothesis (Shearwater Book).

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