

Unit 1: Ecosystems

Organisms and their environment

What is a paradigm?

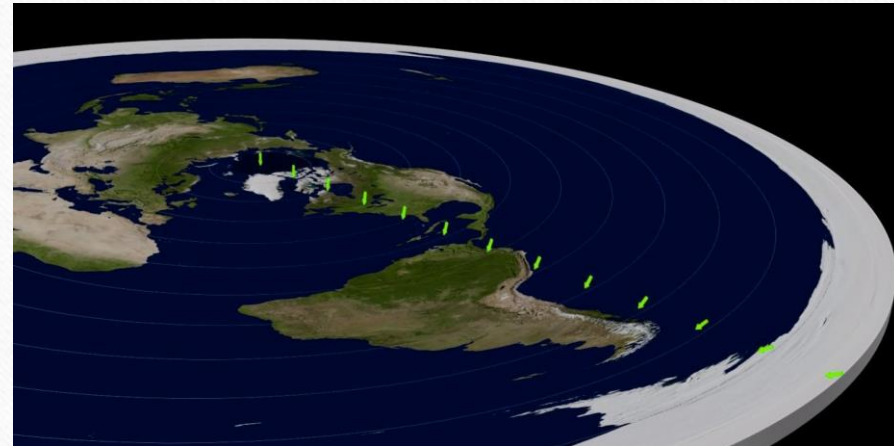
- Paradigm – a belief or attitude held by society
- Paradigm Shift – a change in your beliefs or attitude

Not an easy task!

- Even with supporting evidence for the new view of the world, people like to stick to their old way of thinking.
- Over time, more and more people will begin to understand, and a paradigm shift is said to have occurred.
- Can you think of any changes?

Examples of a Paradigm Shift

- The Earth is flat.....?



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- There would always be enough trees in the forest.....?



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- Endless amount of fish in the ocean.....?



What would cause our beliefs to change?

1. A major catastrophe (ex. NL fishery)
2. Scientists increase our knowledge of the environment

Changing Attitudes

- Attitudes toward our natural environments have changed
- During the past 40 years we have witnessed a greater appreciation on the part of people for the environment.
- Examples: Recycling, wildlife, overfishing, global warming, etc.

Definitions

- **Ecosystem** – A community of interacting organisms and their environment





Ecology

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- **Ecology** – the study of the interactions of organisms to another and to their surroundings

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- **Abiotic** – The non living things that affect an organism



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- **Biotic** – The living things that affect an organism



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- **Habitat** – The place where an organism lives.



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- **Population** – all the members of the *SAME* species living in an area.

- Ex: population of wolves



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- **Community** – All of the organisms in an area.

- Ex: population of wolves
AND population of bears, etc.

