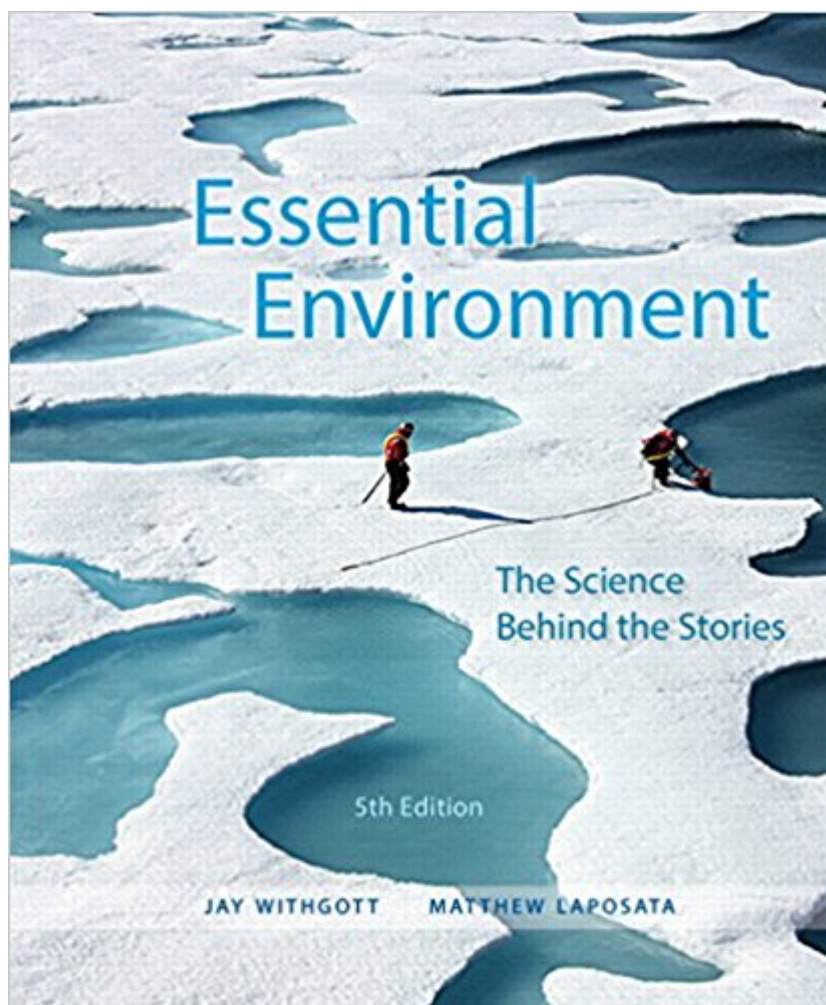


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# Essential Environment: The Science Behind The Stories (5th Edition)



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## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jay H. Withgott Jay H. Withgott has authored *Essential Environment* and its parent volume, *Environment: The Science behind the Stories*, since their inception. In dedicating himself to these books, he works to keep abreast of a diverse and rapidly changing field and continually seeks to develop new and better ways to help today's students learn environmental science. As a researcher, Jay has published papers in ecology, evolution, animal behavior, and conservation biology in journals ranging from *Evolution* to *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. As an instructor, he has taught university lab courses in ecology and other disciplines. As a science writer, Jay has authored articles for journals and magazines including *Science*, *New Scientist*, *BioScience*, *Smithsonian*, and *Natural History*. By combining his scientific training with prior experience as a newspaper reporter and editor, he strives to make science accessible and engaging for general audiences. Jay holds degrees from Yale University, the University of Arkansas, and the University of Arizona. Jay lives with his wife, biologist Susan Masta, in Portland, Oregon.

Matthew M. Laposata Matthew M. Laposata is a professor of environmental science at Kennesaw State University (KSU). He holds a bachelor's degree in biology education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, a masters in biology from Bowling Green State University, and a doctorate in ecology from The Pennsylvania State University. Matt is the coordinator of KSU's two-semester, general education science sequence *Science, Society, and the Environment* which enrolls roughly 7,000 students a year. He focuses exclusively on introductory environmental science courses, and has enjoyed teaching and interacting with thousands of non-science majors during his career. He is an active scholar in environmental science education and has received grants from state, federal, and private sources to develop and evaluate innovative curricular materials. His scholarly work has received numerous awards, including the Georgia Board of Regents' highest award for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. He resides in suburban Atlanta with his wife Lisa, and children Lauren, Cameron, and Saffron. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Good book packed full of tons of information that will make you want to read texts on chemistry, microbiology, geology, atmospheric science and countless other subjects. There are some things I didn't like though: 1. The book appears to be funded by the Living Planet report, a highly UNscientific paper that was publicized by WWF, Nat Geo & other decent groups, but also involves many banks, corporations, NGOs... Well, it's good to call attention to the environment, but the math involved in that report is garbage, and it's been overused ad nauseum. 2. When going over "controversial" subjects such as GMOs & nuclear power, the book caters to public paranoia by repeatedly stating

things that "might" go wrong. Though the book does say GMOs are clearly safe, it also seems to justify the irrational anti-GMO sentiments that seem to have a grip on the USA. On the other hand, when mentioning "Organic", the bias is reversed: Organic industry is presented favorably, with little or no question about the methods (which use pesticides, manure etc).

If it were not for the fact that the book tends to focus more on problems with the environment than solutions (which is understandable, the Earth seems to have more problems than solutions), this would be the kind of book I would give to an alien interested in visiting the planet Earth or person ready to enter the world after being born in solitary confinement..This book likes to start chapters off with real world examples of problems such as invasive species, which means that none of these facts or stories are based off of hypothetical examples (like one's you'd find in a math book or a physics book),This is a super subjective comment, but I'll leave it in anyway. I personally cannot get over the fact that in chapter 2 the book sneaks in al basic physics and chemistry lesson. This includes bolding terms like isotopes, ion and kinetic energy. But hey those topics may seem like Jr. High stuff to me, but maybe an alien could find some use in learning about our perception of chemistry and physics.

Skims the surface of its contained topics but fails to delve deep into issues. Certainly a classroom book. If your instructor recommends it then you can do fine just renting it. I do not see it as a needed reference for any area of study

Decent condition, all pages intact clean without writing/highlighting. Only problem was the book was folded in half when I received it, in a massive envelope meant to allow it to lay flat(it should we mailed in a box). The corners of he book are a little messed up otherwise in nice condition.

This text book was informative enough. It could have been written in a more structured manner. I found the chapters to be less informative than some of my other text books. It should have been more detailed. The index and glossary were not as informative as they should have been. At times, it was difficult to match up the page referral to the actual item or subject I was looking for. This book combined with my notes and research online led to my "A" - and that's what counts. Book is just okay. If you need it, rent it like I did. It's not a book I would keep to refer back to.

I had to read this book for my Environment Science's class at college. Not bad at all for a textbook.

Definitely leans a lot toward environmentalism and sustainability. A nice overview of environmental science that will make you want to pursue it. Wish they had included more references in the book but overall, worth a read!

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