

earth

“There is only one planet able to support human life... Earth.”

Film length: 1 hr. 30 min.
 Rating: G
 Director: Mark Linfield
 Genre: Nature Documentary



Synopsis & Central Plot:

earth follows three animal families around the world, through changing seasons and a changing planet. The diversity and vivacity of our planet is highlighted, from the North Pole to Antarctica, from the forests of North America to the deserts of Africa. The audience is privy to the incredibly fragility and simultaneous robustness of life on our planet. Elephants, polar bears, and humpback whales provide a lens through which the audience experiences the harsh elements and extraordinarily precious moments of animal life. Throughout the film, humans are invisible, but our impact on the climate and natural resources is regrettably prominent.

Main Themes to Engage through the Film:

- The climate change crisis
- The harmony of life on our planet
- The perfection and beauty of God’s creation
- The cycles of life and death, destruction and creation
- The impact of humanity on the rest of the Earth’s living plants and creatures
- The interdependence of all life

Catholic Social Teaching Themes and Connections:

- We are all called to **care for God’s creation**. In earth we see how rapidly our planet is changing and the impact that changes are having on animals’ lives right now. We must recognize the connectedness of all of God’s creations and our duty to care for the perfect gifts that God has given us.
- As humans, we were created in God’s image and share a call to strive for the common good. Our planet is shared amongst all humans and by respecting the **diversity of life**, whether human, animal, or plant, we become closer in our united humanity.

“The world presents itself before our eyes as evidence of God, the place where God’s creative, providential and redemptive power unfolds.”

–Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, #487.



Questions for Reflection & Discussion

- With the incredible amount of diversity that one sees among plants, animals, and humans, • what is it that makes us all God's creation? What do you notice that we have in common with animals? What makes us different?
- Is there a line between using our natural resources and exploiting them? How do we know when/if we cross that line?
- When we see the snow in the Arctic, it seems completely unmarked by human hand or feet. Even though our mark is not visible in the form of a footprint or a building, how have we harmed life?
- What is my personal responsibility for caring for God's creation? Are we responsible for mistakes made by our society as a whole?
- Do we need to sacrifice animal life in order for humans to become more prosperous? Why or why not?
- The animals in this film undertake great journeys throughout their life cycle. What are some similar journeys that we as humans take? How are they similar or different?



Related Resources from Education for Justice:

- **Climate Change: Theological Reflections (PowerPoint)**
<http://www.educationforjustice.org/node/3708>
- **Our Sacred Earth (iMovie)**
<http://www.educationforjustice.org/node/3954>
- **10 Earth Friendly Ways You Can Make a Difference**
<http://www.educationforjustice.org/node/2861>
- **Climate Change: Facts & Faces**
<http://www.educationforjustice.org/node/2863>