

# The Curriculum

We can no longer study natural systems without considering human interactions. Understanding the nature of the complex relationships between humans and the environment is vital and important for all citizens in an era of global human impact on the environment. High school science materials should reflect this critically important fact, and also support students to engage in authentic investigations, gather evidence and marshal arguments in support of possible solutions. By covering biocomplex systems, using scientific and social-science data, and emphasizing student inquiry, Biocomplexity provides an excellent capstone experience for 11th and 12th grade students when used as a replacement module, a semester course or a year long intensive series of four curriculum units.

Biocomplexity and the Habitable Planet uses a case study approach to engage students in the science of coupled natural and human systems, exploring the complex fabric of relationships between humans and the environment at all spatial and temporal scales. Biocomplexity consists of inquiry-based investigations designed around cases in urban, agricultural, tropical and polar systems, in which students address environmental land use challenges increasingly confronted by society. Students gather evidence and marshal arguments in support of possible solutions.

Our mission is to foster the understanding of the complex fabric of relationships between humans and the environment, vital and important knowledge for all citizens in an era of global human impact on the environment. We can no longer study natural systems without considering human interactions. High school science materials should reflect this critically important fact, and also support students to engage in authentic investigations. With its coverage of biocomplex systems, multiple uses of scientific and social-science data, and emphasis on student inquiry, Biocomplexity offers an excellent capstone experience for 11th and 12th grade students as a replacement module, a semester course or a year long intensive series of units.

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