Environmental Ethics

SAFE THE GRAY WHALE? — A CASE STUDY

MAKAH
- Whaling is a part of their cultural identity
- Whaling does not contradict their way of life as a part of nature
- Loss of a few whales weights less than the gain of the Makah people
- Otherwise they might eat animals that would be killed elsewhere

ENVIRONMENTALISTS
- Every living being has intrinsic value and therefore the right to live
- Other whales could be injured throughout the hunt
- Whaling might put the survival of the species at risk

UTILITARIANISM
- Clash of cultures
- Nature is the “silent stakeholder”
- The aim of Environmental Ethics should be to act as nature’s lawyer

ANTHROPOCENTRISM
- Gaia Hypothesis
- Biocentrism
- Ecocentrism

GAIA HYPOTHESIS
- Anthropocentrism: human interests are the only ones considered
- Gaia Hypothesis: Earth as one single living organism which regulates itself
- Biocentrism: every living being has a value in itself and is considered
- Ecocentrism: all of nature has a value and is considered

ECOCENTRISM