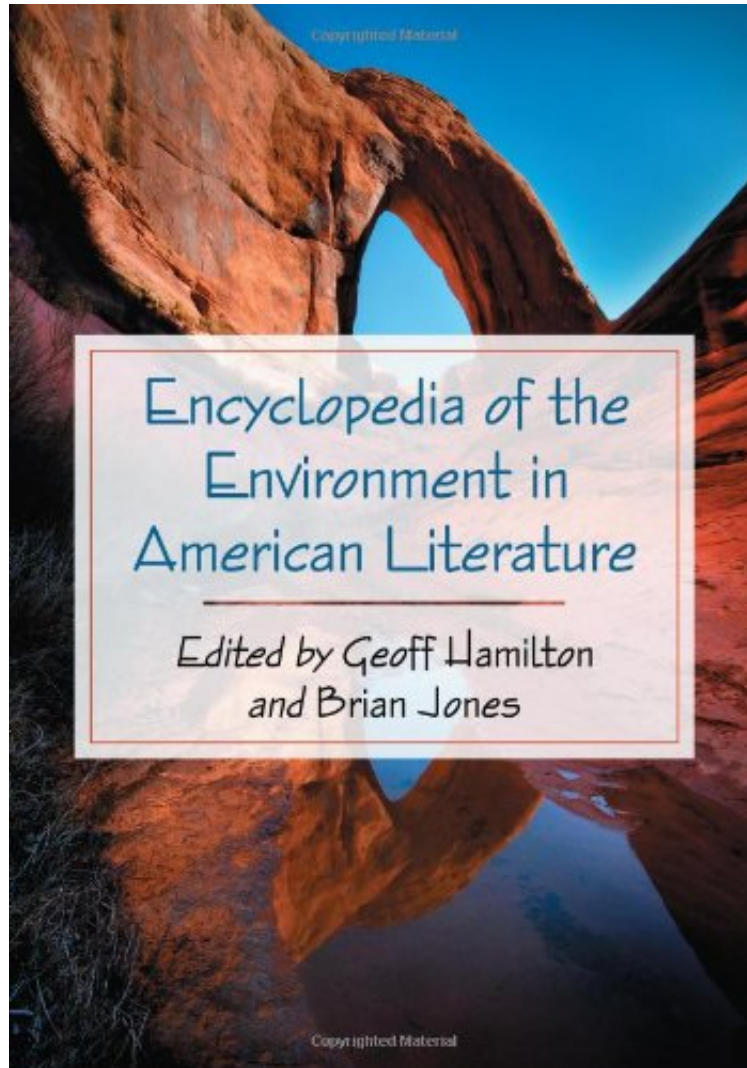


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# Encyclopedia of the Environment in American Literature

*Geoff Hamilton, Brian Jones*

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**Geoff Hamilton, Brian Jones : Encyclopedia of the Environment in American Literature** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Encyclopedia of the Environment in American Literature:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Nice Addition to A CollectionBy Annette LambEncyclopedia of the Environment in American Literature (2013) by Geoff Hamilton and Brian Jones provides an overview of American environmental literature, nature writers, and people how have shaped America's understanding of the environment.Arranged in alphabetical order by author name and topic, each entry provides a short sketch of the person or topic along with a short bibliography. Rather than a cookie-cutter biography, the authors focus on author

experiences directly related to the topic of the environment. Author entries generally provide an overview of all works, then focus on a couple key works. This is a very effective approach. Many of the entries include excerpts of critical reviews or quotes by other authors discussed in the book. There are a number of elements that make this work somewhat different from the many other environmental and nature literature anthologies. First, the authors attempt to include lesser-known women. Second, the book reflects not only the positive aspects of the literature but also those involved in exploiting the environment. While a vast majority of the book involves a focus on authors, a few topics are woven into the list such as "The Bible and the American Environmental Imaginary," "The Conservation Movement" and "Ideologies: Manifest Destiny, the American Dream, and the Land of Opportunity". Mixing in the topics with the authors broke the flow of reading. It would have been more effective to divide the book into two sections: authors and topics. This book is short for an "encyclopedia" and misses some of the key issues and authors. However, it's a good place to start an exploration. As a reader of books on the environment and nature writers, most of the people and topics were very familiar. However there were enough new ideas that make the book worthwhile. In addition, this would be an excellent book for those who are just getting started with works in this area and are seeking ideas for further reading. Overall, this book provides a readable and interesting approach to the environment in American literature. I would recommend it for those interesting in learning more about authors and topics in this area.

This encyclopedia introduces readers to American poetry, fiction and nonfiction with a focus on the environment (broadly defined as humanity's natural surroundings), from the discovery of America through the present. The work includes biographical and literary entries on material from early explorers and colonists such as Columbus, Bartolome de Las Casas and Thomas Harriot; Native American creation myths; canonical 18th- and 19th-century works of Jefferson, Emerson, Thoreau, Whitman, Hawthorne, Twain, Dickinson and others; to more recent figures such as Jack London, Ernest Hemingway, Norman Mailer, Stanley Cavell, Rachel Carson, Jon Krakauer and Al Gore. It is meant to provide a synoptic appreciation of how the very concept of the environment has changed over the past five centuries, offering both a general introduction to the topic and a valuable resource for high school and university courses focused on environmental issues.

"engaging...an enjoyable and reliable resource"--Library Journal; "where this volume is unique is in its broad definition of literature, encompassing formats ranging from oral histories to government policies to the fine arts. Entries are substantial, running at least a full page, and they include bibliographies. Recommended"--Choice; "well-written and well-researched essays"--ARBA; "a welcome addition to libraries seeking materials on the literary environmental movement or nature writing across the disciplines"--Reference s. From the Inside Flap This encyclopedia introduces readers to American poetry, fiction and nonfiction with a focus on the environment (broadly defined as humanity's natural surroundings), from the discovery of America through the present. The work includes biographical and literary entries on material from early explorers and colonists such as Columbus, Bartolome de Las Casas and Thomas Harriot; Native American creation myths; canonical 18th- and 19th-century works of Jefferson, Emerson, Thoreau, Whitman, Hawthorne, Twain, Dickinson and others; to more recent figures such as Jack London, Ernest Hemingway, Norman Mailer, Stanley Cavell, Rachel Carson, Jon Krakauer and Al Gore. It is meant to provide a synoptic appreciation of how the very concept of the environment has changed over the past five centuries, offering both a general introduction to the topic and a valuable resource for high school and university courses focused on environmental issues. About the Author Geoff Hamilton is an assistant professor of English literature at York University in Toronto, Canada. Brian Jones is an independent scholar who lives in Toronto, Canada.