

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

G101 Theme 2 - Contact with Nature and the Aesthetic response to the Natural World

ARABLE

A type of farming concerned with growing crops.

ARTESAN/ARTISAN

Skilled manual workers who produce consumer products of various kinds (eg furniture and other craft items), often on a small scale. Can refer to production of goods on a domestic scale prior to the Industrial Revolution.

ARTS AND CRAFTS MOVEMENT

A movement based in England from around 1860 to 1910 and characterized by simplicity of design, hand-crafted objects, and local materials. Often seen in architecture and designs from this time period. Its philosophy was often seen as anti-industrial. Main participants were William Morris, John Ruskin, Charles Voysey and Augustus Pugin.

COMMUNE

Community of people living together, often sharing property, possessions and resources and working towards common goals in terms of lifestyle and/or philosophy.

DEEP ECOLOGY

Philosophy that believes all living things, including human beings, have an environmental value. Often applied by its proponents to long term environmental policy objectives involving the preservation of diversity and maintenance of natural systems. Contrasts with 'shallow ecology' which focuses on short term, often technological, 'fixes' for human induced environmental damage (eg recycling and energy efficiency schemes).

ECO-HOLISM

Similar to the Gaia Hypothesis. All species, eco-systems and environments are fundamentally interdependent.

ESTRANGEMENT

Separation from something, which creates a feeling of distance and alienation (eg detachment from natural environment experienced by urban dwellers).

GAIA HYPOTHESIS

Also known as Gaia Theory or Gaia Principle. All organisms and their inorganic surroundings are closely integrated to form a single and self-regulating system which maintains the conditions that enable everything to live. Regards the whole Earth as a living system.

HUSBANDRY

Cultivating crops or keeping livestock according to defined principles (eg scientific). Implies the careful management and conservation of resources.

INDUSTRIALISATION

The process of moving from a small scale domestic system of producing goods to a large scale factory based system. Implies social and economic change associated with concentration of workforce and changes in the ownership of means of production.

KIBBUTZ

Israeli (Zionist) agricultural commune based on principles of mutual aid and social justice. Originally comprised of mostly young adult volunteers, some recruited internationally.

LYRICAL BALLADS

Collection of poems by Wordsworth and Coleridge, a landmark work which is credited with kick-starting the Romantic Movement. Founded in story telling using normal 'everyday' language rather than stylised, poetic forms.

ORGANIC FOOD

Generally, food produced without using chemical fertilisers and other un-natural processes or materials. In the UK, may refer to a legal definition of food which is produced within a regime approved by certification bodies like the Soil Association.

PASTORAL POETRY, MUSIC OR ART

Poetry, music or art which perceives and presents the simple, pure, rustic lifestyle of (eg) shepherds and natural (pre-industrial, pre urban) lives and environments in a romantic and idealised way.

ROMANTICISM

Artistic, literary and intellectual movement that originated in the second half of the 18th century in Europe, often regarded as a reaction against the rationalist / scientific values of the Industrial Revolution. Laid stress, instead, on the importance of intuition, imagination and feeling.

TOPOGRAPHICAL POETRY

Genre of poetry that describes/praises a landscape or location.

URBANISATION

The development of urban areas; concentration of population and sources of employment in towns and cities.