

What I Am Thankful For This Year

This year I am thankful for many things. But I am most thankful for animals and nature. I am thankful for this because animals and nature are very important to humans. Other than that, animals have always been fascinating to me. But how could nature be so important to us? Well, you're about to find out.

Here is one way nature is important to mankind: Trees take in carbon dioxide and use photosynthesis to create food for themselves. This also produces oxygen, which is mandatory for survival in humans. Without trees, there would be an incredible decrease in human population.

Well, trees are not anywhere near the only reason why I am thankful for nature. Plants and trees brighten up the world. If there were no plants anywhere, not a single one, Earth would be the most dull place you had ever seen. There would be only the slightest bit of natural color. You wouldn't even recognize it as your home. Thankfully, plants shouldn't be going extinct any time soon because many seeds get planted every day.

But we are still not done. Plants are the bottom of the food chains of every animal. Since plants produce their own food, they don't have any prey to catch. (With an exception of the venus fly trap and a few other bug eating plants.) But the bottom line is that plants are the energy source of almost all animals. From the herbivores to the carnivores, the plants are always the beginning.

Now, one more example- Plants are great inspiration for artists, composers, and dancers! When you think about it, there are so many humans who have been inspired by nature. One of Vincent Van Gogh's most famous paintings is of sunflowers. Multiple pieces of music have been based off of the outdoors. Even dancers create dances with nature-like moves. Nature can be very inspiring- the way trees sway, animal behavior, and much more.

One more thing to remember is that I happen to just have moved from New York City- a place where I wasn't as open to nature as I am now, in a country like town. Here I can go outside in the fresh air almost any time I want. That's just an extra reason why I am thankful for nature- I have so much more access to it!

There are multiple more reasons why I could be thankful for animals and nature, but here is just the beginning.

-Kaya Duran