



# Science: Nature's Greatest Ally

Cheryl Chiang

Science and technology have paved the way for the boom of advancements in the 21st century. Science is the reason why we are now able to unravel the mysteries of previously unknown and inexplicable phenomena. Who would have thought that an apple falling from a tree would lead to an understanding of gravitation; or that simply flying a kite would lead to the discovery of electricity? The one factor that connects all these discoveries is Mother Nature.

Nature gives us an infinite amount of resources, and we take these resources to develop things that help us to improve the quality of our lives. Mother Nature provides us with most of our basic human necessities. But at what cost?

Humans have perfected the art of natural resource exploitation. We have become the world's most dangerous predators. Most people may think that this is just part of the circle of life, but it is more than that. Our cardinal sin is avarice.

Consequently, we are destined to be the cause of our own destruction. After so many natural non-renewable resources have been extracted, what will be left for future generations? One shudders to think.

We use science to understand and explain things beyond our knowledge and control. We must remember that "what goes around comes around". Global warming, which should be under our control, leads to climate change and this comes back to haunt us in the form of unpredictable floods, unstable temperatures and irreversible consequences.

We should use scientific knowledge to complement Nature's gifts. While science might be the reason for nature's destruction, it could also be its salvation. With trends shifting towards the sustainable and recyclable, companies such as Google attempt to be more environmentally conscious without compromising the quality of their service. The relationship between science and nature cannot be determined easily. However, we can neither undermine nature's contributions to science, nor should we consider nature as ours to damage.

Science should not pose a threat to nature; instead, it should be nature's greatest ally.