

James Lovelock on Environmental Ethics

1. **Who** is James Lovelock and what are his key ideas on environmental ethics?
2. **How** do James Lovelock's key ideas on environmental ethics work?
3. **Why** are James Lovelock's key ideas on environmental ethics important?

1. **Who** is James Lovelock and what are his key ideas on environmental ethics?

James Lovelock (b. 1919) is a British scientist and member of the environmental movement. He is most famous for developing the Gaia hypothesis, which he introduced and explained in his book of the same name, *Gaia: A New Look at Life on Earth* (published in 1979). Although it was ridiculed by some scientists at the time, it has since become a fundamental assumption of ecology science. Make a note about who he is and what he has done.

James Lovelock (b. 1919)

James Lovelock introduced three key ideas about environmental ethics in his book, *Gaia: A New Look at Life on Earth*. Make a note about three of his key ideas.

Key Ideas of James Lovelock on Environmental Ethics

1

2

3

James Lovelock is most famous for developing the Gaia hypothesis. Make a note about the Gaia hypothesis and its supporting evidence.

The Gaia Hypothesis

2. **How** do James Lovelock's key ideas on environmental ethics work?

James Lovelock's key ideas support his view that human beings should be cautious and discerning when damaging or destroying the environment, because it could have significant consequences for the survival of human beings and other living things. Explain how each key idea supports his view.

How the Key Ideas of James Lovelock on Environmental Ethics Work		
Earth's atmosphere and biosphere comprise a single interconnected organism (Gaia).	Gaia is cybernetic and regulates Earth's conditions to keep it inhabitable.	Gaia is vulnerable and Earth could become uninhabitable if it is damaged.

3. **Why** are James Lovelock's key ideas on environmental ethics important?

The key ideas of James Lovelock are important for three reasons in particular. Make a note about why his key ideas are important.

Why the Key Ideas of James Lovelock on Environmental Ethics Are Important	
1	
2	
3	