

## **“Nature’s Best Hope”**

By Doug Tallamy

Focus Questions for “Chapter One: The Dreamers”

### **Conservation Leaders**

The opening chapter of “Nature’s Best Hope” by Doug Tallamy focuses on Aldo Leopold and E.O. Wilson as historically important conservation leaders, while also mentioning a few other important conservation figures. Research and briefly describe why the following people are also inspirational conservation leaders.

Rachel Carson:

Bill McKibben:

Elizabeth Kolbert:

One of Aldo Leopold’s most successful students was Frances Hamerstrom, a pioneering woman in conservation, with a particular focus on marsh hawks, prairie chickens, and owls in Wisconsin. Research and briefly describe the importance of her work. Massive Science is a good resource, particularly for women in science: [massivesci.com/articles/frances-hamerstrom-biologist-hunter-conservationist/](https://massivesci.com/articles/frances-hamerstrom-biologist-hunter-conservationist/).

One of E.O. Wilson’s most successful students is Corrie Moreau. After some research, note a few highlights of Dr. Moreau’s work. This Cornell University website has some information on her research: [ecologyandevolution.cornell.edu/corrie-moreau](https://ecologyandevolution.cornell.edu/corrie-moreau)

### **Aldo Leopold**

Aldo Leopold was a keen observer who took meticulous notes, which led to many of his insights. You’ve likely noticed things about the natural world, a plant growing, or an animal doing something, or a pond freezing.

Describe an observation of the natural world that you’ve made in the last month.

Aldo Leopold was ahead of his time in terms of understanding complex interactions among species in the landscape, before the terms ecology or ecosystem had even been coined.

What category of animals did Leopold come to realize were critically important to balanced ecosystems?

What term is used today to describe how animals can affect each other and the plants in the landscape?

Why do you think Aldo Leopold’s book, “Sand County Almanac,” was so popular and influential?

If he were alive today, Aldo would be so happy about the recovery of the \_\_\_\_\_.

## **E.O. Wilson**

E.O. Wilson is associated with several important scientific findings, ideas and advancements. Describe their importance in a sentence.

Pheromones:

Sociobiology:

Island Biogeography:

## **The Half-Earth Project**

Wilson's development of the idea of Island Biogeography, along with a lifetime of experience in conservation efforts, led him to propose the bold idea of protecting half of the planet for nature. Visit [half-earthproject.org](http://half-earthproject.org) to research answers to these questions:

What problem does achieving Half-Earth solve?

How did E.O. Wilson determine that protecting half the Earth's lands and seas was the correct goal?

Who would benefit from the success of the Half-Earth Project?