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| Welcome to Your World imageIntroduction image |
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| **To the Teacher:** |
| In teaching this lesson, it will be useful to refer to the **Teachers' Materials** before you begin, to give you vital information associated with the unit. |

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| If you watched the news on television last night, it's very likely that you saw a news story that talked about the environment. What do you think of when you hear the word **environment**? You probably think about efforts to protect wild animals, like tigers, or even about recycling aluminum cans, paper and plastics. What does the word environment mean? Why has it become such an important news topic?The **environment**is the sum of all outside conditions that affect the life, development and survival of an organism.In this first lesson we will look at the various roles that living organisms play and how they interact with their environment.  We'll also learn about how environmental  hazards effect these organisms. |
| Objectives image |
| Illustration:  Hot air balloonBy the end of this lesson you should be able to:* Summarize the flow of energy from the sun through the various levels of the food chain
* Identify various elements of the carbon cycle, nitrogen cycle and water cycle
* Identify the relationship of dose and toxicity to the effects of exposure from environmental hazards and the relationship of exposure, toxicity and risk
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| Instructions image |
| Begin by taking the "Pre-Test", then proceed with the rest of this unit by going through the "Lessons".  When you get to the lesson guides, read each one.  When you are finished, complete the post-test. |