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## INTRODUCTORY.

MAN is vitally dependent upon air, water, and earth. The air supplies oxygen for breathing and for fire; it supplies carbon dioxide to plants; it brings vapor for rain; and its presence and movements profoundly affect climate.

The ocean is the source of vapor; it furnishes many kinds of food fish; it is the highway of an ever increasing commerce; and it influences the climate of every land.

The lands furnish a home for man; they are mantled with a soil in which the food plants grow; and from the rocks are obtained mineral fuels, building stones, and metals. Both plant and animal life are greatly influenced by the forms of the land and the distribution of land and water.

The sun is also of vital importance, for its heat and light make life on the globe possible. The heat sets the air in motion, forming winds which bring rain, modify climates, and start waves and currents in the ocean.

The movements of the earth — rotation and revolution — are also important. Rotation brings day and night, which influence the habits of men, animals, and plants. Revolution causes seasons, which have a still greater effect on life.

Plants, animals, and mankind have adapted themselves in a wonderful manner to the soil, climate, and other features of their surroundings. Most animals and plants live either in