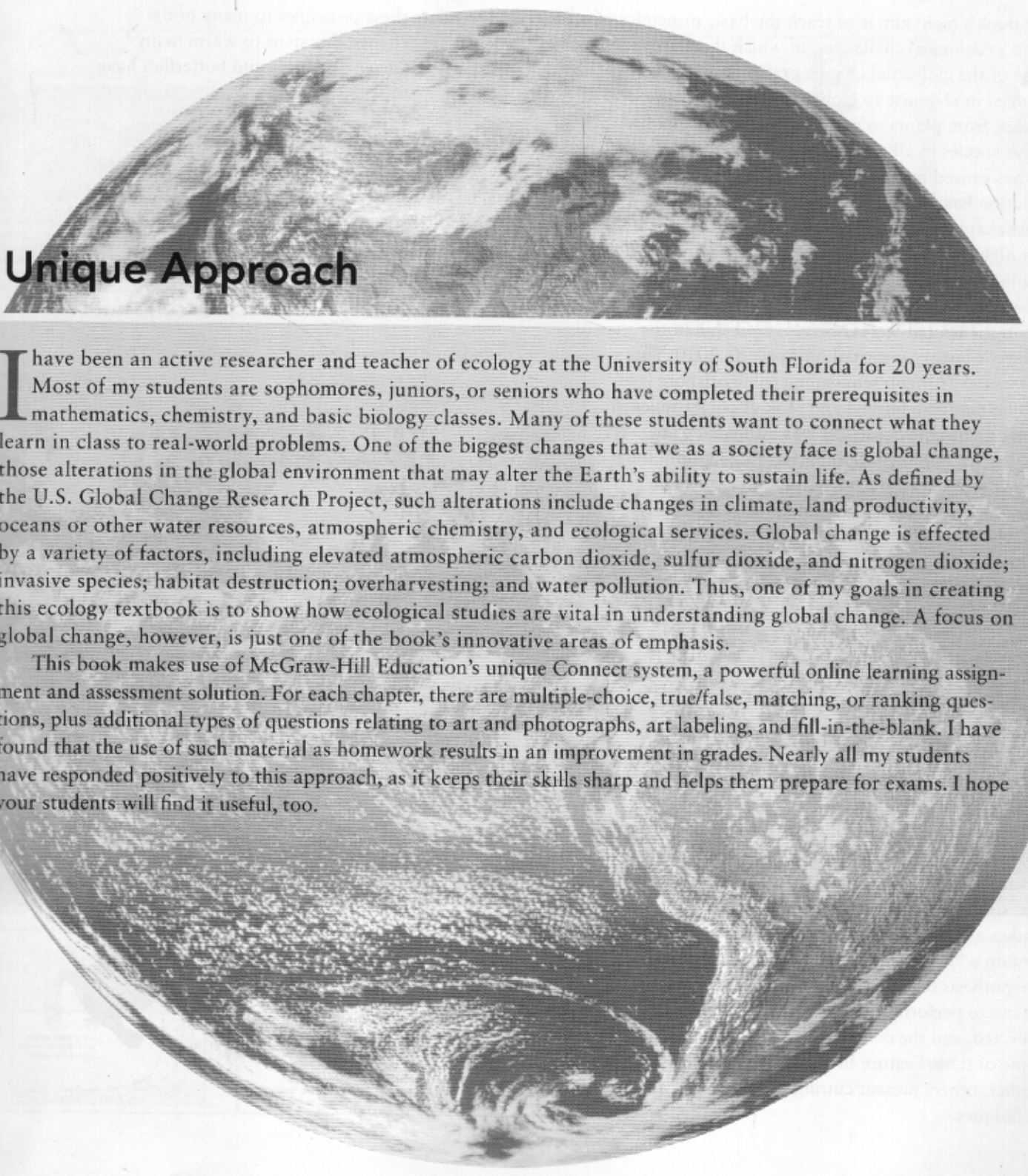




Preface



Unique Approach

I have been an active researcher and teacher of ecology at the University of South Florida for 20 years. Most of my students are sophomores, juniors, or seniors who have completed their prerequisites in mathematics, chemistry, and basic biology classes. Many of these students want to connect what they learn in class to real-world problems. One of the biggest changes that we as a society face is global change, those alterations in the global environment that may alter the Earth's ability to sustain life. As defined by the U.S. Global Change Research Project, such alterations include changes in climate, land productivity, oceans or other water resources, atmospheric chemistry, and ecological services. Global change is effected by a variety of factors, including elevated atmospheric carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide; invasive species; habitat destruction; overharvesting; and water pollution. Thus, one of my goals in creating this ecology textbook is to show how ecological studies are vital in understanding global change. A focus on global change, however, is just one of the book's innovative areas of emphasis.

This book makes use of McGraw-Hill Education's unique Connect system, a powerful online learning assignment and assessment solution. For each chapter, there are multiple-choice, true/false, matching, or ranking questions, plus additional types of questions relating to art and photographs, art labeling, and fill-in-the-blank. I have found that the use of such material as homework results in an improvement in grades. Nearly all my students have responded positively to this approach, as it keeps their skills sharp and helps them prepare for exams. I hope your students will find it useful, too.