



Arts – Golf Course Hole Design, Ecological Impact

Definition: 1 : knowledge about the natural world that is based on facts learned through experiments and observation. 2 : an area of study that deals with the natural world (as biology or physics)

Facts about ecological impact of golf courses on average:

- One golf course in Palm Springs, FL averages 800,000 gallons of water usage per day! (One average swimming pool is about 18,000 gallons.)
- Golf course design can have an impact on protected wildlife areas.
- Depending on how the golf course is maintained, pesticides, fungicides, and fertilizers are used which can negatively affect the environment.

Good news: There is a trend developing in golf course design to make the courses more conscious of environmental impacts. **EXAMPLE: Pinehurst No. 2 Redesign:**

- In 2010 one of the most famous golf courses, Pinehurst No. 2, in South Carolina was redesigned to restore the original design.
- It had been redeveloped over the years to a more conventional looking golf course, with most of the course covered in green turf.
- The redesign eliminated 40 acres of managed turf was removed and replaced with native sand and plants and eliminated over 700 sprinkler heads. Eliminated water use by half.
- [Tips: Check out this article for a picture and article about the Pinehurst No. 2 redesign](#)

ACTIVITY: What kind of native plants/flowers can you find outside in your back yard? Design your own golf hole and list what kind of native plants/flowers/animal habitat areas you would include. Be creative in your design and be sure to include as many details as possible. Every golf hole is unique and starts with unlimited possibilities!

For an added challenge, create different tee boxes and figure out different distances to the key features and components of your golf hole. For a complete example, check out the coach examples on our website!