

# Environmental Science: Summer Assignment

*Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*

By Robin Wall Kimmerer

## Part 1: Read the Introduction and the Preface

Answer the questions below:

1. Before you start reading, what do you think that this book is going to be about?
2. What is Sweetgrass? As a budding naturalist, craft a nature journal about Sweetgrass, including what you learn from this section. Example to the right →
  - a. Sketch Sweetgrass and label its parts
  - b. Describe how Sweetgrass functions within its ecosystem?
  - c. What role does it play for indigenous people?
  - d. Anything else of note that you would like to add?
3. What is a new word or concept for you? Define what it means.
4. What phrase or passage lingers with you from these sections? Why?



## Part 2: Read Skywoman Falling from *Braiding Sweetgrass* and Genesis 1-3 from the Bible

Answer the questions below:

1. Write a short 2-3 paragraph analysis of how these two creation stories describe the natural world and humanities place with in it. Use textual evidence to support your claims.
2. Research/find another creation myth story. What is it? Where does it originate? What does it say about humanities relationship to the natural world? Can you find lasting evidence in the way that those people treat the natural world today?

## Part 3: Robin Wall Kimmerer - The Intelligence of Plants

Listen to the On Being podcast featuring Robin Wall Kimmerer:

<https://onbeing.org/programs/robin-wall-kimmerer-the-intelligence-of-plants/>

Answer the questions below:

1. How does listening to Dr. Kimmerer speak expand, confirm or shift your understanding of the natural work and our place in it? How does it change your thoughts on what it means to be human?
2. What additional questions do you have after listening to her talk?