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dictionary

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English
Language



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na·ture  (nā chər)

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n.

1.

a. The material world and its phenomena: *scientists analyzing nature.*

b. The forces and processes that produce and control these phenomena: *the balance of nature.*

2. The world of living things and the outdoors: *spent the day enjoying nature.*

3. A primitive state of existence, untouched and uninfluenced by civilization or social constraints: *when people lived in a state of nature.*

4. The basic character or qualities of humanity: *It is only human nature to worry about the future.*

5. The fundamental character or disposition of a person; temperament: *a man of an irascible nature.* See Synonyms at [disposition](#).

6. The set of inherent characteristics or properties that distinguish something: *trying to determine the nature of a newly discovered phenomenon.*

7. A kind or sort: *confidences of a personal nature.*

8.

a. The processes and functions of the body, as in healing: *The doctor decided not to do anything and let nature take its course.*

b. Heredity: *behavior more influenced by nature than nurture.*

[Middle English, essential properties of a thing, from Old French, from Latin *nātūra*, from *nātus*, past participle of *nāscī*, to be born; see **gena-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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