I believe you read the course guide? If so, it means you now have a general understanding of what this unit is about and how it fits into the course as a whole. The unit will make you aware of the various definitions of science, branches of science, aims of science and the differences between science and non-science disciplines. It is also important to consider the origins and philosophical underpinnings of environmental history, and highlights significant interactions of humans and the natural world throughout history.

Note that the influence of Greek philosophy on our concept of nature is discussed part way through the text. After reading the article, do you believe that our understanding of and attitude towards the environment has improved or degraded over time? Between Science and Philosophy, there are differences even though they have some common ground. Scientists rarely pay any attention to philosophical studies and engage in their research. On the other hand, scientific findings in areas like metaphysics, quantum physics, theory of evolution, experimental psychology, theory of relativity, brain research, etc. have profound implications for philosophical research and thinking. Scientists distrust and dislike philosophy though it is a fact that philosophy has an important place in the mosaic of human endeavor. It is a fact that the world is shaped by our understanding of and attitudes towards science and philosophy.