Contents

List of figures viii
Acknowledgements x

General introduction 1

PART I: LIVELIHOOD
Introduction to PART I 9

Chapter One
Culture, nature, environment: steps to an ecology of life 13

Chapter Two
The optimal forager and economic man 27

Chapter Three
Hunting and gathering as ways of perceiving the environment 40

Chapter Four
From trust to domination: an alternative history of human–animal relations 61

Chapter Five
Making things, growing plants, raising animals and bringing up children 77

Chapter Six
A circumpolar night’s dream 89

Chapter Seven
Totemism, animism and the depiction of animals 111

Chapter Eight
Ancestry, generation, substance, memory, land 132
PART II: DWELLING

Introduction to PART II  153

Chapter Nine
Culture, perception and cognition  157

Chapter Ten
Building, dwelling, living: how animals and people make
themselves at home in the world  172

Chapter Eleven
The temporality of the landscape  189

Chapter Twelve
Globes and spheres: the topology of environmentalism  209

Chapter Thirteen
To journey along a way of life: maps, wayfinding and navigation  219

Chapter Fourteen
Stop, look and listen! Vision, hearing and human movement  243

PART III: SKILL

Introduction to PART III  289

Chapter Fifteen
Tools, minds and machines: an excursion in the philosophy
of technology  294

Chapter Sixteen
Society, nature and the concept of technology  312

Chapter Seventeen
Work, time and industry  323

Chapter Eighteen
On weaving a basket  359

Chapter Nineteen
Of string bags and birds’ nests: skill and the construction
of artefacts  349

Chapter Twenty
The dynamics of technical change  362

Chapter Twenty-one
‘People like us’: the concept of the anatomically
modern human  373

Chapter Twenty-two
Speech, writing and the modern origins of
‘language origins’  392
Chapter Twenty-three
The poetics of tool-use: from technology, language and intelligence to craft, song and imagination 406

Notes 420
References 436
Index 454