Abstract: We take a systems-level perspective on concepts and conceptual change focusing on ecosystems and human-nature relationships. There is considerable diversity in cognitive orientations to nature. Our research works through multiple cultural and methodological lenses to investigate folk theories and epistemological orientations (practices guiding what is worthy of attention, observation and explanation) with respect to the natural world. We start from the position that concepts take their meanings from relations with other concepts within frameworks for organizing knowledge, from folk theories to broad cultural epistemologies. On this view, conceptual change is a change in relations within such systems of meaning. This stance informs our research investigating how cultural epistemologies interact with conceptual change at multiple levels, from social and ecological processes of child-parent engagement with their environments, to cultural models and artifacts that structure conceptual domains, to the scientific practices that allow us to investigate these very questions.