



A Child's Place in the Environment

Caring for Aquatic Systems



IN A NUTSHELL

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SUBJECTS

Fine Arts

Language Arts

Mathematics

Science

Social Studies

This is the fourth part of a six-unit teaching guide developed by the California Department of Education. The purpose of this guide is to provide elementary school teachers with an example of an interdisciplinary, thematic environmental education program. "We strive to balance our use of water to meet the needs of all living things" is the unifying concept in the activities of this particular unit. The twenty lessons are divided further into four subconcepts. The curriculum provides extensive information for teachers, such as materials lists, time lines, reference materials, tips for facilitating cooperative learning, suggestions for teaching outdoors, and ideas for assessment and evaluation. The curriculum also includes worksheets, study materials, photographs and other illustrations, songs, games, and stories. Data sheets are available in Spanish and English.

Grade Level

4th

Length

412 pages

Date Published

1994

THE BOTTOM
LINE

"It is impressive for a 4th grade manual that action skills are stressed... Often, these activities are only stressed for junior high and high school."

What the REVIEWERS Said !	Key Characteristics	Strengths Noted	Other Considerations
	Fairness and Accuracy	Identifies sources of information and curriculum designers. Represents varying sides of issues and helps students explore differing values and conflicts.	Some content may come across as “gloomy” if not balanced or presented properly.
	Depth	Explores issues in local and continental perspectives. Different natural science concepts are represented. Activities relate concepts to students’ lives.	
	Emphasis on Skills Building	Involves students in critical thinking, data collection, definition of issues. Develops citizenship skills.	
	Action Orientation	Encourages students to examine water use in their own lives and to get involved in water use issues in their community.	
	Instructional Soundness	Employs variety of teaching methods and assessment types. Encourages students to participate in and reflect on process and content of learning.	Some vocabulary may not be age-appropriate.
	Usability	Lessons are clearly written. Resources, references and professional development programs are listed. Materials are adaptable to international settings, are reusable and are available in more than one language.	Layout of activities is cumbersome. Background information is given at the end.

“Material contains many opportunities for students to see different sides to an issue and to begin forming their own opinions and solutions to problems.”

“The materials do an excellent job of introducing water concepts.”