



Discovery Curriculum



IN A NUTSHELL

The National Arbor Day
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item #2438

SUBJECTS

Language Arts
Science

This curriculum was developed to promote stewardship of the environment by teaching sound scientific principles. The material is divided into three levels, each with a particular goal and emphasis. Level 1 addresses awareness, Level 2 expands the learner's knowledge base to understand the interrelationship of living and nonliving elements in a given environment, and Level 3 focuses on action.

For each level, a description is given of the information, concepts and vocabulary to be taught, along with suggested experiments and demonstrations. References are made to specific activities from other sources, many of which are

reprinted in the resources section along with student pages and handouts. Also included is a narrative of the curriculum as taught by Mrs. Ortega, a fictional composite instructor, at the Discovery Camp where the curriculum was developed. The material also includes ten one-page student investigations, where students are challenged to develop hypotheses and experiments to explain natural phenomena. The text includes an overview of the curriculum and a list of references, and is illustrated with photographs, drawings, and charts.

Grade Level
middle school

Length
224 pages

Date Published
1996

THE BOTTOM
L I N E

"This curriculum builds the students' knowledge base before entering a discussion of beliefs and values."

What the REVIEWERS Said !	Key Characteristics	Strengths Noted	Other Considerations
	Fairness and Accuracy	Information is inquiry-based. References are provided. Illustrations show diverse student body.	Does not list reviewers of curriculum.
	Depth	Lessons build upon earlier learnings. Strong focus on concepts.	Pays little attention to social issues and how environmental issues affect individuals.
	Emphasis on Skills Building	Develops skills of collecting and analyzing data and using the scientific method.	
	Action Orientation	Names environmental stewards who were able to effect change. Students are encouraged to locate and interview those in charge of projects.	
	Instructional Soundness	Demonstrates a variety of learning styles. Clearly states objectives.	
	Usability	Material is well laid-out, easy to use, and long-lived.	Does not contain a concise materials list for teachers.

"Although designed for the outdoors, it can be adapted to a number of settings."

"Allows students to identify and develop their own solutions."