



# Eco-Inquiry

A Guide to Ecological Learning  
Experiences for the Upper  
Elementary/Middle Grades



## IN A NUTSHELL

Written by: Kathleen Hogan

Kendall-Hunt Publishing  
Company  
4050 Westmark Drive  
Dubuque, IA 52002-1804

phone: (800) 228-0810  
fax: (800) 772-9165  
e-mail: orders@kendallhunt.com  
website: www.kendallhunt.com

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## SUBJECTS

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Science

This curriculum involves students in experiments and research that will provide an understanding of ecological processes and how they affect a specific site in their local environment. The text is divided into three modules, each of which addresses a particular concept area: food webs, nutrient cycling, and decomposition. During the course of this program, students become familiar with composting, seed growth, development of environmental impact statements, and evaluating the experience and training of scientists. Each module gives students opportunities to generate theories, conduct research, and evaluate and process data. Individual lesson plans alert teachers to desired outcomes, needed materials, important vocabulary, preparation instruction, safety concerns, and ongoing means of assessment. Teachers are provided with narratives for introducing and describing the topics and activities, as well as suggestions for extensions. The text includes student worksheets, game cards, and illustrations.

**Grade Level**  
5-8

**Length**  
392 pages

**Date Published**  
1994

THE BOTTOM  
LINE

"I like the development of making science and scientists seem real and interesting."

What the REVIEWERS Said !	Key Characteristics	Strengths Noted	Other Considerations
	Fairness and Accuracy	Illustrations show diversity. Information is current. Materials focus on inquiry.	Lists reviewers, but not their affiliations.
	Depth	Allows for investigations over several weeks. Concepts are taught in context.	Material is locally focused and may lack regional and global relevance.
	Emphasis on Skills Building	Develops lab, creative problem solving, and observation skills. Students develop their own experiments. Uses group skills.	
	Action Orientation	Encourages sense of personal responsibility.	
	Instructional Soundness	Involves parents in learning process. Inquiry is learner-centered. Encourages many forms of assessment.	Materials could be more interdisciplinary.
	Usability	Materials are long-lived, adaptable, and have a clear and helpful format.	

"Allows for different perspectives to be introduced and explored."

"This text would best be used in situations where the teacher has one to two months or more to devote to these topics.."