



Environmental Science Field Laboratory



IN A NUTSHELL

Sargent Welch
P.O. Box 5229
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

phone: (800) 727-4368
fax: (800) 672-2540
website: www.sargentwelch.com

Cost: \$395 for single user.
Lab pack (5 sets) \$1,175.

SUBJECTS

- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies

This CD-ROM provides students with an opportunity to explore the applications of science to seven environmental problems: stream pollution, minerals for society, coal energy, radiation, legal control of the environment, streams and floods, and geology of homesite selection. For each problem, the students take on the role of a scientist, receive an introduction to the problem and to their task, and are required to collect, record, and analyze data. Set consists of a CD-ROM and a sixty-two page instructor's manual, which includes answers to the objective tests in the program. An introductory module, which can be accessed from the main menu or any of the seven subject areas, guides students through the specifics of the program. Students can proceed at their own pace; progress can be assessed through quizzes and on-screen essay assignments. Program features text, still photographs, movies, diagrams, maps, charts, and tables.

Grade Level	9-12
Length	1CD-ROM
Date Published	1996

THE BOTTOM LINE

“Terrific practice at using lots of skills related to specific environmental problems. Could be enhanced by adding more on socio-political/economic aspects of each problem.”

What the REVIEWERS Said !	Key Characteristics	Strengths Noted	Other Considerations
	Fairness and Accuracy	Abundance of background and reference material. Presents problems in a very detached, objective manner.	Could be more inclusive of different ethnic and cultural perspectives.
	Depth	Covers a wide range of topics. Local in nature but widely applicable.	Could benefit from further detail such as discussion of technological, political and cultural concerns.
	Emphasis on Skills Building	Requires students to gather, interpret and evaluate data and draw conclusions.	
	Action Orientation	N o t A p p l i c a b l e.	
	Instructional Soundness	Specifies objectives at beginning of each module. Invites involvement with fun graphics, slogans and names. Encourages further research. Provides three forms of assessment.	Some screens have largely words, nothing else. Completion times for modules can be lengthy (3-4 hours) and occupy several class sessions.
	Usability	Online help available. Technical support available through e-mail or fax. Directions are easy to follow.	Pre-designed sequencing prohibits skipping items. Next step not always clear. Amount of material could be confusing.

“Would well be used as a ‘unifying theme’ in an upper level high school course.”

“Take time to learn the program before using it. Potential for too much class time to be wasted figuring things out.”