



Environmental Science: Ecosystems



IN A NUTSHELL

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Cost: \$12.95/ \$12.50 for
teacher manual

SUBJECTS

Science
Social Studies

This student textbook addresses fundamental characteristics of ecosystems. The five chapters address definition of ecosystems, changes, interactions and cycles in ecosystems, and the effects of human activities. The material includes text interspersed with laboratory experiments under controlled conditions, field studies involving experiments outdoors or using existing natural structures, and case studies. Puzzles encourage the student to calculate or solve problems without empirical research. Important themes and vocabulary words are clearly distinguished. The text also features frequent questions, discussion ideas, and section reviews to help students test their understanding of the material. It is illustrated with graphs, charts, maps, and black and white photographs. Also included are a resource directory of organizations and teaching materials, an index, a glossary, and a brief statement about young people and community action. A separate teacher resource manual is also available.

Grade Level
6 & up

Length
92 pages

Date Published
1995

THE BOTTOM
L I N E

"This would be an excellent resource for
a unit on ecosystems."

What the REVIEWERS Said !	Key Characteristics	Strengths Noted	Other Considerations
	Fairness and Accuracy	Encourages learner to explore and consider different view-points.	Sources of information not cited.
	Depth	Each chapter builds on previous learning.	Little integration with other subjects.
	Emphasis on Skills Building	Skills addressed include writing, discussion, observation and other research skills.	
	Action Orientation	Text encourages sense of ownership and challenges students to consider what actions they can take.	
	Instructional Soundness	Material connects topic to learner's everyday life. Provides indoor and outdoor activities.	Experiments do not allow for student input or curiosity.
	Usability	Labs require simple, inexpensive supplies.	No mention of teacher's guide or supports. Materials copyrighted and cannot be reproduced. No age level indicated.

"Field studies are like recipes. There is not much room to improvise or create situations."
 "This could support/enhance classroom development of the concept of ecosystems.
 It could be a good book for a student to use on an individual study project."