



Hands-On Minds-On Science

Environmental Issues



IN A NUTSHELL

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SUBJECTS

Fine Arts
Health
Language Arts
Science
Social Studies

This book begins with a systematic introduction to the scientific method and science process skills. It goes on to provide suggestions on teaching and applying other learning skills relevant to the study of environmental issues, such as defining and identifying issues, determining who is affected by them, and providing a structure to use in analyzing different people's perspectives. Later chapters provide suggestions on structuring investigations into specific environmental issues, such as solid water management, air and water quality, and land use. For each issue, individual questions are posed along with ideas for engaging students in an experiential understanding of the issue. Activities include measuring the amount of recyclable material in garbage, listing household toxins, conducting experiments with gasses or soil types, and using pop bottles to simulate the greenhouse effect. Each activity includes suggestions for preparing the class for the activity, a list of needed materials, a description of the procedure, and suggestions for extensions and closure. The text provides masters of handouts, a glossary, bibliography, and assessment forms, and is illustrated with drawings and charts. This book is also available in Spanish.

Grade Level
3-5

Length
96 pages

Date Published
1994

THE BOTTOM
LINE

"Individually, these are excellent activities and materials integrating life skill development and issues."

What the REVIEWERS Said !	Key Characteristics	Strengths Noted	Other Considerations
	Fairness and Accuracy	Expresses different viewpoints and encourages inquiry. Sources of information are referenced.	Includes some directive statements. Some fact sheets are time-sensitive and will require updating. Some perspectives are understated.
	Depth	Establishes a broad awareness of environmental issues. Builds knowledge and understanding through experiences.	
	Emphasis on Skills Building	Utilizes critical thinking skills. Each issue incorporates a personal action component.	
	Action Orientation	Provides opportunities for students to think about personal and community actions. Develops sense of personal responsibility.	
	Instructional Soundness	Information is made relevant to students. Uses a variety of activities and learning styles. Includes assessment tools.	Lessons are very teacher-driven. Targeted age group is not clear. Objectives are not stated.
	Usability	Materials are easily reproducible. Activities are organized in a consistent manner.	Provides little background information.

"The author tries to cover way too much, thus undermining the very skill building they seek."

"Good, clear science investigations."