



Global Environmental Change Series: Biodiversity & Deforestation



IN A NUTSHELL

National Science Teachers Association
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Cost: \$7.96 for NSTA members.
\$9.95 each for non-NSTA members.

SUBJECTS

- Economics
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies

The *Global Environmental Change Series* teaches students how to gather relevant information from pertinent areas of study, and encourages them to develop their own opinions, decisions, and solutions to problems. *Biodiversity* uses Costa Rica as a case study in balancing economic growth and resource conservation. Activities focus on defining and quantifying biodiversity, becoming an amateur taxonomist, investigating life zones in Costa Rica, and understanding the complexity of managing a tropical forest. *Deforestation* uses Washington State's Olympic Peninsula as a case study of deforestation's ecological and economic impacts. Activities focus on defining deforestation, ecological succession, soil erosion, habitat loss, and inhabitant species, and on understanding land use. Activities in both guides include background information, procedures, questions for discussion, suggestions for further study, and reproducible student pages.

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| Grade Level | 9-12 |
| Length | 61-64 pages |
| Date Published | 1997 |



"Information is accurate and great strides are taken to remain fair on controversial issues."

| What the REVIEWERS Said ! | Key Characteristics | Strengths Noted | Other Considerations |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|
| | Fairness and Accuracy | Information is accurate and is presented in a fair and neutral fashion. Different viewpoints and a diversity of cultures are represented. | Unclear as to whether materials were reviewed by scientists or tested in classrooms. Background is not referenced. |
| | Depth | Case study approach allows for consideration of historical, cultural, and economic aspects of issues. Focus on local to global aspects of environmental issues. Makes connections between issues. | No clear conceptual framework or list of concepts addressed in each activity. |
| | Emphasis on Skills Building | Focus is on creative and critical thinking. Encourages students to analyze information and to draw their own conclusions. | |
| | Action Orientation | Materials help students identify issues and consider multiple perspectives and solutions. Lists conservation laws and agencies that are involved in deforestation and biodiversity issues. | Does not emphasize individual and group action projects or the link between issues and personal responsibility. |
| | Instructional Soundness | Goals are clearly stated. Provides many opportunities for practical experience. Involves variety of subjects, activities and learning styles. Extends learning environment beyond the classroom. | Some disciplines (e.g., language arts, fine arts) are poorly represented. Limited focus on assessing learner progress. |
| | Usability | Material is clear, logical, and easy to use. Contains extensive background information. Can be adapted for a variety of grade levels. | |

“Case study format is excellent - helps students apply new information in specific areas to regional and global issues that are similar.”