



How Nature Works

Teacher's Manual:
HELP (Habitat Ecology
Learning Program)



IN A NUTSHELL

Habitat Ecology Learning Program
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Cost: \$59.95 for *How Nature Works*
\$350.00 for complete set.

SUBJECTS

Fine Arts
Language Arts
Mathematics
Science
Social Studies

H.E.L.P. is designed to help instructors coordinate the teaching of ecology and science with valuable and productive field visits to zoos. This curriculum consists of six teacher manuals, five of which concentrate on teaching about specific habitats (rain forests, deserts, wetlands, temperate forests and grasslands). For each habitat, attention is given to the natural processes as well as to human impact and interaction. Student activities consist of research, calculation, educational games, zoo or field trips, data interpretation, creative writing or visual arts. The first volume, *How Nature Works*, provides an overview of major ecological and biological concepts such as species, habitat, and food chains. Individual lesson objectives, types of activities, and sequencing are presented in a scope and sequence chart in each volume. Materials include slides, student worksheets, pen and ink drawings, game supplies, and suggestions for teachers.

Grade Level
4 - 6

Length
150 pages

Date Published
1996

THE BOTTOM
LINE

“I think this material is set out in a creative and effective manner. The units and lessons are in a progressive learning style and build upon each other.”

What the REVIEWERS Said !	Key Characteristics	Strengths Noted	Other Considerations
	Fairness and Accuracy	Materials well-researched, supported with tables and graphs. Displays a variety of viewpoints.	Some activities have a bias towards a “best choice”.
	Depth	Strong awareness component. Gives attention to local to global scales and both short- and long-term effects. Presents concepts in context.	Does not always make information relevant to students.
	Emphasis on Skills Building	Employs basic science skills. Some activities require critical thinking skills.	
	Action Orientation	Emphasizes a strong sense of responsibility.	Weak emphasis on local action compared to global. Not much action until the closing unit.
	Instructional Soundness	Provides a range of instructional methods and assessment opportunities. Clearly states learner outcomes. Goals and objectives are appropriate for age group.	Too heavy of a reliance on chalkboard, worksheets, and written activities.
	Usability	Provides adequate background information and worksheets. Sequence charts help in planning a program. Support made available.	Limited hands-on activities. Some information will need to be updated as policies/ populations change.

“The lessons give thorough information and back it up with valuable activities. The last unit builds on writing and citizenship.”

“Easy to use and full of opportunities to adapt to a particular teacher’s style.”