



Investigating & Evaluating Environmental Issues & Actions: Skill Development Program



IN A NUTSHELL

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Cost: \$26.80 + s&h
teacher's edition
\$13.80 + s&h student's edition

SUBJECTS

Economics
Language Arts
Mathematics
Science
Social Studies

This material is designed to give students the tools to investigate and evaluate environmental issues. Students are first introduced to definitions of 'environment,' then are led through processes of identifying issues and research questions, conducting investigations, interpreting data, and developing action strategies based on research. Topics addressed include: understanding the differences between conclusions and inferences; doing research on issues in libraries; recognizing values associated with belief statements; and how to organize and present data. As part of the curriculum, students are responsible for completing and reporting on an issue investigation. The material is interspersed with case studies, quotes from original documents on specific environmental discussions, cartoons, photographs, and charts. The teacher's guide provides additional background information, a discussion of environmental literacy, and suggestions for teaching the units.

Grade Level
6-12

Length
270 pages

Date Published
revised in 2003

THE BOTTOM
L I N E

"Great job on getting kids to think for themselves
and to analyze their own ideas."

What the REVIEWERS Said !	Key Characteristics	Strengths Noted	Other Considerations
	Fairness and Accuracy	Case studies reflect diversity of issues and geographic areas. References sources of information. Provides balanced presentations and encourages inquiry.	
	Depth	Promotes an awareness of issues. Students encouraged to explore own beliefs. Teaches concepts in context.	
	Emphasis on Skills Building	Strong on critical thinking and application of skills to issues.	
	Action Orientation	Includes entire section on action. Stresses looking at problems from a variety of perspectives and acting only after careful reflection of the issues.	
	Instructional Soundness	Goals and objectives are clearly spelled out.	Relies largely on reading to learn skills. Involves few lab or field work exercises.
	Usability	Adaptable and easy to use. Instructions are clear and concise.	Case studies and data will need to be updated.

"Teachers may have a little difficulty with the format, as it is not laid out in a linear 'do it this way' format."

"Teaches the learners how, not what, to think."