



Mud, Muck & Other Wonderful Things:

An Environmental Curriculum for Five- to Eight-Year Olds

Currently Out of Print



IN A NUTSHELL

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Reference# ES1007

Cost: \$5.00 + s&h

SUBJECTS

Fine Arts
Science

This is a structured, sequential curriculum designed to help introduce young learners to the world of nature, with an emphasis on wetland habitats. The book consists of seven chapters, each dedicated to a different topic and containing three different activities. Activities include puzzles, games, discussions, temperature measurements, weather study, drawings, and numerous outdoor explorations. A side-bar for each lesson identifies relevant life skills, the preferred group size and adult/child ratio, age ranges, location, time requirements, and materials needed. An activity matrix charts the outcomes, preferred site, and time of year for each activity. The text includes student pages and masters of handouts. Each activity ends with a paragraph that begins "Being a steward of the environment means...", which is meant to be read to the students to provide ideas for additional discussion or exploration. A section at the beginning of the book provides information for the teacher on the abilities of five- to eight-year olds.

Grade Level	K-3
Length	76 pages
Date Published	1995

THE BOTTOM LINE

"A useful basic book on a variety of ecological concepts for someone is who working with K-3 children."

What the REVIEWERS Said !	Key Characteristics	Strengths Noted	Other Considerations
	Fairness and Accuracy	Very open to inquiry.	Some bias detected regarding forestry. Does not cite sources of information.
	Depth	Discusses concept as appropriate for developmental level. Begins by increasing awareness.	
	Emphasis on Skills Building	Pre-activity discussions are designed to prompt students to think. Allows for creative thinking, hypothesizing.	
	Action Orientation	Encourages student responsibility. Builds on the concept of stewardship.	
	Instructional Soundness	Lessons are interdisciplinary, learner-centered, and relate to everyday life. Includes outdoor and hands-on activities. Uses many learning modalities.	Relevance of some activities not clear.
Usability	Well laid-out, easy to copy.	Does not provide additional resources. Contains no glossary.	

"Many kindergartners lack the logic necessary for some of these activities."

"The 'teaching by asking questions' method allows for creative thinking."