



On Safari:

Animals and Their Habitats



IN A NUTSHELL

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Cost: \$34.95 with posters.
\$24.00 kit with animals.
\$46.00 for complete set.

SUBJECTS

Fine Arts
Language Arts
Mathematics
Science
Social Studies

This curriculum seeks to teach students about animals and their habitats through a series of inter-related activities. The central project involves the students in the construction of realistic three-dimensional models of animal habitats. Other activities include composing animal-inspired haiku, playing animal bingo, and researching and developing data tables about specific animals. Each of the thirty-one lessons contains a sidebar which describes the nature of the activity, lists the preparation and materials needed, provides time requirements, and identifies learner goals. Assessment opportunities are highlighted for selected activities. The entire curriculum can be completed in six weeks, with 2-3 classroom hours per day spent on the activities. The text provides worksheets, evaluation materials, maps, and other form masters. Illustrations in the text are black and white drawings and maps; two full-color posters accompany the text.

Grade Level	2-3
Length	80 pages
Date Published	1996

THE BOTTOM
LINE

“Simple, straightforward, uncomplicated.”
“The ‘learner goals’ appear to be consistently developed throughout the unit.”

What the REVIEWERS Said !	Key Characteristics	Strengths Noted	Other Considerations
	Fairness and Accuracy	Encourages teachers to 'facilitate rather than dispense knowledge'.	
	Depth	Lessons span several disciplines. Emphasizes awareness.	
	Emphasis on Skills Building	Each lesson has specific learning goals. Challenges students to observe, research, measure, contrast, classify, and describe. Stresses creative skills.	Little integration of skills with action, or of analyzing data to reflect on environmental issues.
	Action Orientation	Not Applicable.	
	Instructional Soundness	Addresses various learning styles. 'On Safari' unit is strong on research. Lessons are interdisciplinary and build on prior knowledge.	Instruction is mostly classroom centered. Other than one zoo trip, limited encouragement to use local resources. Primary emphasis on reading to acquire knowledge.
	Usability	Well-written, organized, easy to use materials. Copyrights and copy permissions clearly provided. Gives list of recommended books and 800 number for additional information. Material is long-lived.	

"The unit could benefit by including a trip to a local preserve or refuge and putting more emphasis on investigating native animals in addition to animals around the world."