



Project WET: Curriculum & Activity Guide



IN A NUTSHELL

The Watercourse
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Cost: Distributed in training workshop
which is free or requires a minimal charge.

SUBJECTS

Fine Arts
Health
Language Arts
Mathematics
Science
Social Studies

This is a collection of activities dealing with water and its importance to society. The activities cover aspects as diverse as molecular structure and physical properties, resource management, politics, and social contexts. Each lesson contains a sidebar which describes grade level, subject areas, time required, setting, skills, “charting the course” (which identifies other related activities) and vocabulary. The lessons consist of a summary, objectives, materials, making connections (which explains the relevance and rationale of the lesson), background information, procedure, assessment, extensions, and a list of resources. Seven skills are identified in the framework: gathering, organizing, analyzing and interpreting information; applying learned information; evaluating application of learned information; and presenting evidence of learning from application and evaluation processes. Illustrations consist of photographs, maps, charts and drawings.

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| Grade Level | K-12 |
| Length | 516 pages |
| Date Published | 1995 |

THE BOTTOM
LINE

“The materials follow an interdisciplinary approach, so time is spent on science and language arts and social studies.”

| What the REVIEWERS Said ! | Key Characteristics | Strengths Noted | Other Considerations |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| | Fairness and Accuracy | Information appears thorough and well researched. Reflects subject matter throughout history, giving national information and different viewpoints. Diverse ethnic groups represented in activities. | |
| | Depth | Concepts cover a variety of topics. Background sections are thorough and present concepts and define terminology. | |
| | Emphasis on Skills Building | Materials develop seven specific skills, which are identified for each activity. | Could use more critical thinking skills at lower grade levels. |
| | Action Orientation | Action is both group oriented (“Dilemma Derby”) or individual (“The CEO”). Most “Wrap Up and Extension” activities suggest action. | Few examples of action activities for lower grades. |
| | Instructional Soundness | Activities are mindful of different learning styles. Each activity is identified by developmental level and is related to learner’s life. Goals and objectives are clearly stated. | |
| | Usability | Layout is clear and logical, with appendices and suggestions for assessments and expanded study. Many are adaptable to different age groups and communities. | Difficult to photocopy due to binding. |

“The information... helps to give credibility to environmental education. We are not just ‘tree huggers’ anymore. The addition of assessment opportunities is especially exciting and timely.”