



Wetlands:

An Interdisciplinary Unit for Science and Language Arts



IN A NUTSHELL

Written by: Jean L. Pottle

Dino Productions
P.O. Box 3004
Englewood, CO 80155

phone: (303) 741-1587
fax: (303) 741-8927
website: www.dsUPER.net/~dinoprod/index.htm/

Cost: \$14.95 + s&h

The twenty-eight chapters in this book provide students with an introduction to different kinds of freshwater and saltwater wetlands. Lessons are arranged by wetland type including bogs, marshes, prairie potholes, swamps, estuaries, and tidal marshes. Each lesson provides brief information about a wetland organism or issue. Individual lessons are dedicated to specific wetland organisms, such as herons, muskrats, cranberries, mangroves, and carnivorous plants. Other chapters deal with phenomena of the wetland, such as succession, erosion, or quicksand. Some lessons invite students to write opinions on human interactions with different wetlands, such as the disappearance of prairie potholes or the environmental effects of farming peat. Students are frequently instructed to write or draw their thoughts and observations. The keeping of a journal is an important component of this curriculum. Learners are encouraged to review what they have learned in previous lessons, and two chapters are specifically to help students evaluate their learning. A bibliography of fiction and non-fiction works related to wetlands is included.

Grade Level	6-8
Length	76 pages
Date Published	1997

SUBJECTS

Fine Arts
Language Arts
Health
Science
Social Studies

**THE BOTTOM
LINE**

"Even the introduction is interactive."

"Too complex for primary levels, and too simple for upper levels. It is unclear what audience this material is for."

What the REVIEWERS Said !	Key Characteristics	Strengths Noted	Other Considerations
	Fairness and Accuracy	Provides historical perspective and includes folklore from different cultures. Encourages learner to reflect on information and to form own opinions.	Does not cite sources of information. Questions are worded to elicit a preferred answer.
	Depth	Provides information on changes in wetlands over time. Addresses related concepts such interdependence of human and animal populations.	Uses vocabulary to explain concepts which may not be appropriate to targeted age group.
	Emphasis on Skills Building	Promotes critical thinking skills and creative writing skills.	Some activities may unrealistically expect technical skills or other preparation on the part of the student.
	Action Orientation	Provides examples of people who "make a difference."	Does not encourage personal action taking or provide suggestions of what students can do.
	Instructional Soundness		Geared mainly to independent study.
	Usability	Includes clear illustrations.	Does not provide instructions for teachers such as time requirements, objectives or outcomes.

"Would probably be appropriate for a home schooling program. It requires a self-motivated learner with good reading skills. Material is structured but almost totally self-contained."