



Wildlife

(middle school unit)



IN A NUTSHELL

Written by: Bob Miller,
Kim Stokely, & Tory Finley

Adopt-A-Watershed
Program
P.O. Box 1850
Hayfork, CA 96041

phone: (530) 628-5334
fax: (530) 628-4212
website:

www.adopt-a-watershed.org

Cost: \$67.00

SUBJECTS

Fine Arts
Language Arts
Mathematics
Science
Social Studies

The middle school module of the *Adopt-A-Watershed* curriculum uses both new and reprinted exercises and materials to educate students about wildlife adaptation, evolution, and ecology. Using controlled experiments, field study, simulation games and other activities, students develop an understanding of how wildlife populations change over time, how different species interact, and how human populations affect wild animal populations. Some of the activities are recommended for specific times of the year or are able to incorporate data from previous years' classes. The nineteen lessons include suggestions for teachers around sizing of groups, safety instructions for field trips, building student interest in the project, and making the curriculum relevant to the local area. The unit culminates with students developing a major piece of work to summarize what they have learned. Additional features include sources of information and materials, activity guides, a complete list of equipment needed, transparency masters, and a matrix showing concepts, projects and grade levels for the entire curriculum.

Grade Level	7-8
Length	104 pages
Date Published	1993

THE **BOTTOM**
LINE

"Strong in involving the community and developing long-term research projects."

What the REVIEWERS Said !	Key Characteristics	Strengths Noted	Other Considerations
	Fairness and Accuracy	Presents a range of perspectives, particularly when discussing controversial issues. Many exercises are inquiry-based.	Does not cite many sources of information or identify those who developed and reviewed curriculum.
	Depth	Strong on developing awareness of natural world. Builds understanding of dependence of human life on a healthy environment.	Focus is on vertebrate wildlife.
	Emphasis on Skills Building	Encourages creative and critical thinking skills. Provides opportunities for developing interpersonal and group skills.	
	Action Orientation	Two lessons specifically address student involvement. Opportunities for students to reflect on their actions are provided throughout.	
	Instructional Soundness	Very learner-centered. Builds on previous knowledge and research. Uses indoor/outdoor activities. Encourages collaboration.	Objectives for individual lessons are not always clear.
	Usability	Layout is clear, logical, easy to use, adaptable to other states. Lists teacher resources and support services. Three-hole binder makes use easy.	Lacks table of contents and index.

"Relies on sound theories and well-documented facts."

"A broader range of possible solutions could be built into more of the activities."