



Zebra Mussel Mania:

Teacher's Guide for
Grades 5 & 6



IN A NUTSHELL

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SUBJECTS

Fine Arts
Language Arts
Mathematics
Science
Social Studies

Zebra Mussel Mania was designed to be used in conjunction with the *Zebra Mussel Traveling Trunk*. The ten activities in this guide address specific features and problems caused by zebra mussels (e.g., their ability to clog water lines) as well as general problems and concerns raised by the introduction of exotic species into natural habitats. Activities are designed to fit into one or more 45-minute class periods. Each lists a scientific process skill, a concept to be explored, benchmarks for learning, objectives, instructions for students, connections to other areas of study, important vocabulary, and possible variations. Some activities call for videos, actual mussels or other materials from the traveling trunk. The guide also includes a pre- and post-test, fold out sheets describing different mussel types and their life cycles, fact cards, student sheets, a journal, transparency masters, and other material on laminated pages. It also includes suggestions for facilitating cooperative learning, a glossary, resource lists, and suggestions for using mussels in the classroom. The Traveling Trunk is available for rent or sale through the Sea Grant program.

Grade Level	5-6
Length	73 pages
Date Published	1997

THE BOTTOM
LINE

"A good deal of science is conveyed through the activities and there are interdisciplinary linkages built in."

What the REVIEWERS Said !	Key Characteristics	Strengths Noted	Other Considerations
	Fairness and Accuracy	Provides lists of agencies for further information.	Uses such terms as "evil," "menace," and "alien invaders" to describe zebra mussels.
	Depth	Thorough discussion of the concept of population growth and rapid colonization.	
	Emphasis on Skills Building	Requires measurement, observation, classification, prediction, and other scientific skills. Encourages students to think about how they arrived at conclusions.	
	Action Orientation	An action plan is developed at the end of the unit.	Actions consists of educating the public. Weak in the area of personal stake.
	Instructional Soundness	Lessons are learner-centered and interdisciplinary.	Uses mostly indoor activities. Connections to learners' lives are weak.
	Usability	Instructions are well organized, clear and easy to follow. Provides helpful teacher support.	Most activities are specific to zebra mussels. Cost may be prohibitive.

"There are probably more exercises here than are required to convey a basic working knowledge of the zebra mussel problem."
 "Could be an excellent tool for teaching cooperative learning, but it lacks incentive for the students to care about this particular species."