

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION MODULE ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION: A TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOP TEXT

GRADE LEVELS: 9-12
with some application at grades 7-8

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SUBJECTS



I N A N U T S H E L L

This module is a reference for educators. It provides a framework of information and models to guide the preparation of educational experiences and materials. The module is organized into three major sections. Section 1 introduces biodiversity and relates biodiversity education to environmental education. It provides the groundwork for environmental education development, goals, and strategies. Section 2 presents an academic framework for understanding biodiversity problems and issues. While focusing on the ecology and science of biodiversity problems, it presents a broader scientific, technological, and sociological view of what can be done to preserve and manage biodiversity locally, regionally, and globally. Integration of the sociological and ecological dimensions of biodiversity issues is also discussed. Section 3 attempts to infuse biodiversity and environmental education into secondary education programs, and a framework is presented for identifying opportunities to infuse biodiversity and environmental education into various subject areas. The activities have been selected to reflect a broad cross section of the framework presented, but are not intended to be exhaustive. Activities and case studies include A Moral Dilemma; Biogeography (People, Places, and Biodiversity); The Nature of Change; Ethnobotany; Biodiversity in Action; and Selling the Public on Biodiversity. Recommendations for using this module to develop curriculum materials and to train educators are also given.

**THE BOTTOM
LINE**

"Super background material for
educators and students."

"Does a good job of looking at many sides of an
issue and having students think critically."

WHAT THE REVIEWERS SAID

NAAEE GUIDELINES

STRENGTHS

THINGS TO CONSIDER

Fairness and Accuracy

Good information about biodiversity for educators.

Initial introduction does not examine various competing theories. Some background information seems to be out-of-date.

Depth

Thorough, in-depth examination of concepts in context.

Emphasis on Skills Building

Focuses on data gathering, analysis, drawing conclusions, and application. Encourages creative and critical thinking.

Action

Fosters an understanding of issues and thinking about the roles of individuals and groups.

Does not directly facilitate action projects in the community.

Instructional Soundness

Caters to diverse learning styles. Focuses on real-life issues. Good use of constructivist approach.

Focuses on classroom activities.

Usability

Useful for teachers. Logical progression. Adaptable to different grades. Activities are straight forward, easy to use, and contain enough supporting data for students.

Panel reviewed a draft.



“This is a great place to start for educators who want to focus on biodiversity and environmental education.”

“Great resource—excellent background for teachers as well as a collection of activities for use with students.”