



Creature Features:

The Delicate Balance of Ecosystems



IN A NUTSHELL

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SUBJECTS

Fine Arts
Language Arts
Science

Seven separate short programs make up this videotape. Each program deals with a different aspect of ecology or ecosystems, such as animal adaptations or the nature of a habitat. The video segments are all filmed in Maryland, and many focus on wetland areas and organisms. The accompanying teacher guide lists objectives, a synopsis of the important concepts and vocabulary presented in each lesson, pre- and post-viewing questions, instructional activities, and related books for young readers. Among the activities are journaling, discussions, research projects, crafts such as creating birdfeeders and designing food chain mobiles, a game simulating predator and prey adaptations, and field trips.

Grade Level	3-6
Length	35 minutes & 8 page guide
Date Published	1991

What the REVIEWERS Said!

Other Considerations
Strengths Noted

The video is visually pleasing with high-quality photography and clear narration. Each video segment ends with an unanswered question for the audience. The reference information and pre/post questions in the teacher's guide were well received. Very little diversity is found amidst the professionals interviewed on film. The video content encourages cautious and responsible action with regard to ecosystems, and highlights examples where efforts to repair ecosystem damage has been successful. Some reviewers were concerned that the emphasis on Maryland might make the material less valuable to students in other regions.