



# The Ecology of Creatures We Love to Hate



## IN A NUTSHELL

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## SUBJECTS

Language Arts  
Science

This book contains both teacher and student materials for a unit on commonly unwanted and unpopular creatures. The list of organisms includes gulls, molds, algae, weeds, snakes, rats, caterpillars, slugs, and mosquitoes. The first part of the book is the teacher's guide, and provides an explanation of the lessons and suggestions for using and grading the material. The student pages include lessons in ecology which touch on such topics as introduced species, human values, population size fluctuations, and the effects of pesticides. The third and longest part of the book contains material necessary for student teams to conduct investigations of these creatures and to put together classroom presentations as part of a town meeting on nuisance species. For each species, a section is included which discusses the life history of the organism and lists learning goals for the student teams. Suggestions are provided for investigations, activities, research, references, and people to contact for more information. An appendix addresses the use of live animals in classrooms.

**Grade Level**

7-12

**Length**

108 pages

**Date Published**

1995

**THE** **BOTTOM**  
**LINE**

"These lessons will help students look at some species they encounter out of the classroom with a new perspective."

<b>What the REVIEWERS Said !</b>	<b>Key Characteristics</b>	<b>Strengths Noted</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
	<b>Fairness and Accuracy</b>	Presents differing perspectives about animals. Encourages openness to new ideas from a variety of sources.	Benefits of species could have been emphasized more.
	<b>Depth</b>	Presents concepts in context. Students explore by interviewing local resources.	
	<b>Emphasis on Skills Building</b>	Focus is on critical and creative thinking, research, group work, communication and presentation skills.	Lacks laboratory and field science activities.
	<b>Action Orientation</b>	N o t   A p p l i c a b l e .	
	<b>Instructional Soundness</b>	Activities are open-ended and learner centered. Allows groups to determine their own learning goals.	Few hands-on activities, follow-up activities, or ties to other disciplines.
	<b>Usability</b>	Material is clear, straightforward, long-lived, and adaptable. All materials can be reproduced.	Organisms may not be easy to obtain.

"A great introduction to scientific objectivity."

"An excellent resource for utilizing students' curiosity and gut reactions to generate interest in scientific information."