

REPORT

National Guidelines for Excellence in Environmental Education Analysis on Project Food, Land & People

Submitted to the National Project Food, Land & People Steering Committee
by the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education

April 12, 1999

OBJECTIVE:

To evaluate the quality of the Project Food, Land & People environmental education materials with regard to the six key characteristics outlined in the process of National EE Guidelines for Excellence.

PROCEDURE:

On March 19, 1999, a training workshop was hosted by the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education in Golden, Colorado. The workshop focused on how to analyze environmental education materials with regard to the National Environmental Education Guidelines for Excellence - a program sponsored by the North American Association for Environmental Education. The workshop and training were conducted by Dr. Bora Simmons, of Northern Illinois University, who was the national project director for the Guidelines for Excellence program.

Within the scope of the workshop, and under the supervision of Dr. Simmons, the Project Food, Land & People materials were analyzed by seven independent, trained reviewers, using the process outlined in the National EE Guidelines for Excellence.

CONCLUSIONS:

The summary evaluation of the reviewers indicates the Project Food, Land & People materials follow the guidelines for excellence very well. The Guidelines for Excellence review process does not use a scoring or grading system, but instead employs a written summary of the review comments and evaluation. The following page in this report replicates the evaluation write-ups published in three volumes of "The Environmental Education Collection: A Review of Resources for Educators" by the North American Association for Environmental Education. (At this time, there are no plans to publish a fourth volume.)

PROJECT FOOD, LAND & PEOPLE:
Resources for Learning

Project Food, Land & People
1990 N. Alma School Road, #136
Chandler, AZ 85224

Phone: 602-963-7959

Cost: Distributed in training workshop which requires a minimal charge.

SUBJECTS

Consumer Science and Education
Geography
Health
History
Language Arts
Mathematics
Science
Social Studies

IN A NUTSHELL

Grade Level: Pre-K to 12

Length: 463 pages

Date Published: 1998

Project Food, Land & People (FLP) provides educational resources and promotes approaches to learning that helps educators and students to better understand the interrelationships among agriculture, the environment, and people of the world. FLP is an interdisciplinary, systematic educational program that addresses the need to learn not only about agricultural production, but also its social and economic significance and its links to human health and environmental quality. Offering more than forty lessons, each is self-contained, or could be used with other FLP activities, or used as a supplement with an existing curriculum or unit. In addition to grade level, subject area, and skills information, each lesson includes objectives, estimated teaching time, materials needed, vocabulary section, related lessons, and extensive supporting information. The step-by-step procedures for completing the lesson are outlined with evaluation options, suggested extensions and variations, and resource materials for additional background information. The guide also contains several appendices which include the conceptual framework for FLP, an explanation of the development and evaluation of the lessons, a glossary, lesson attachments, and several cross-references for the lessons by grade level, skills, subjects, and topics.

“The Bottom Line”:

“Fresh point of view - fresh perspective.”

“Conceptual framework is excellent!”

“Especially good for rural students in fast-growing areas overtaken by development.”

“Uses all the best tools for curriculum supplements, but offers detailed and comprehensive content and background information as well.”

What the REVIEWERS said!

<i>Key Characteristics</i>	<i>Strengths Noted</i>	<i>Other Considerations</i>
Fairness and Accuracy	Variety of activities that include counter-ideas; not afraid to tackle difficult “ag” subjects. An independent review process is cited in the appendices. Very fair and accurate.	Would have liked to see more internet/WEB connections.
Depth	Excellent conceptual framework. Focus is on concepts rather than too many facts. Good multi-community efforts. Deals with social and economic as well as ecological concepts.	This level of depth actually may be intimidating to teachers.
Emphasis on Skills Building	Lots of activity options for multiple learning styles. Almost all activities have a component of critical thinking. Good why or why not questions.	There should be stronger emphasis in procedure section on specific skills involved.
Action Orientation	Very good. Some of the skill areas actually address responsibility and cause and effect.	
Instructional Soundness	Incorporates a good model for cooperative learning; using process skills, different learning styles, etc. Is learner-centered and allows students to construct knowledge. Examples reflect real-world experiences. Is interdisciplinary. Good choices for assessment.	Comfort level for urban students could be better. Quite a few ways of learning are addressed, but mostly “traditional” learning methods.
Usability	So much to choose from. User friendly. Teachers can do a suitable job without undue prep time. Claims seem substantiated. Materials easy to obtain & inexpensive. Three-hole punch is convenient. This book seems extremely usable. Fits with national, state standards.	Layout is not as attractive as some other guides. Print size and spacing is somewhat small.