

WIZE (Wildlife Inquiry through Zoo Education)

Nationally Validated

Students grades 6-10



Life science curriculum for students grades 6-10 focusing on biology and conservation:

- *Two comprehensive modules contain a variety of instructional materials to be used in the classroom.*
- *Modules cover survival challenges of wild animals and ecosystems.*

Results



- *WIZE produces student mastery of key concepts in biology and conservation.*
- *Teachers increase their own knowledge of science and are motivated to use new and effective teaching methods.*

The Program

WIZE is a life science curriculum that will lead students on a voyage of discovery through the world of wild animals. WIZE consists of two modules:

Diversity of Lifestyles (grades 6-8) Module 1 focuses on how wild animals are adapted to meet their survival challenges. This module consists of three units: Animals of the Land, Animals of the Air, and Animals of the Water. It explores geography, climate, animal behavior, nutrition, and human impact on wildlife.

Survival Strategies (grades 7-10) Module 2 is a more challenging and advanced module, covering ecology, environmental sciences, natural resource use, ecosystem function, wildlife conservation, and population biology. The module consists of three units: Life Cycles, Competition and Predation, and Wildlife and People.

Each module can be used as a self-contained curriculum or as a flexible supplementary program and provides roughly half a year or one semester of instructional material. The *Diversity of Lifestyles* kit includes a teacher's manual with complete lesson plans, 34 student resource books, masters for student activity sheets, photo cards, and eight sets of discovery cards. The *Survival Strategies* includes all components just described plus two audio tapes and Posterity, a classroom wildlife management simulation game. Field trips to local science resources are encouraged to reinforce the content of the program materials.

WIZE offers countless links to disciplines other than science, principally math, social studies, and language arts. Through this program, students explore the field of conservation biology — an important subject which often is not addressed in standard biology textbooks. In addition, WIZE meshes with the National Standards.

WIZE is being used in over 5,890 classrooms in 45 states and the District of Columbia, as well as in nearly 571 classrooms throughout New York State.

Professional Development

The program offers teachers both awareness and training sessions. Awareness sessions introduce participants to the goals and methods of WIZE and provide a brief content overview. In training sessions (2-5 days), program staff and teachers model selected lessons, simulations, and field activities. Trainings are usually held at zoos and at school sites around the country.

Costs & Funding Options

The Module 1 kit costs \$250; the Module 2 kit costs \$200. Additional costs are associated with training. Please call for details. We will gladly explore with you sources for private funding within your locality and collaborate on writing a proposal. Possible funding sources for replication include ESEA Title II and ESEA Title VI.

Learning Standards

Mathematics, Science and Technology: 4) understand mathematics and become mathematically confident by communicating and reasoning mathematically, by applying mathematics in real-world settings, and by solving problems through the integrated study of number systems, geometry, algebra, data analysis, probability, and trigonometry.

Social Studies: 3) use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of the geography of the interdependent world in which we live — local, national, and global — including the distribution of people, places, and environments over the Earth's surface.

Contact

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