



Unveiling the NBII as a Teaching Resource

The Education component of the NBII provides teachers, parents, and students of all ages with access to online biological resources that emphasize the teaching of biology, biodiversity, and ecology.

The National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) is a distributed electronic federation of biological data through which a network of partners, cooperators, and others can find, share, and apply information.

The Education component of the NBII provides teachers, parents, and students of all ages with access to online biological resources that emphasize the teaching of biology, biodiversity, and ecology. Included are activities, lesson plans, experiments, projects, resources, and references for classroom and home use. The goal of the NBII Education page is to assist teachers and parents in educating today's students and shaping the biologists, resource managers, and environmental stewards of tomorrow. Resources are categorized both by subject and grade level, and include summaries of content.

Web Page

<http://www.nbii.gov/education>

General Curriculum

The resources indexed in this section are general introductions and lesson plans for a wide range of biological topics. Many offer a specifically

scientific focus, while others incorporate multidisciplinary approaches. They are a good starting point for preparing a diversified curriculum.

Mammals

Various members of Class Mammalia inhabit the three major life-zones: air, land, and water. The resources in this section offer teachers and students a host of activities, references, and materials for exploring the amazing diversity of mammals on our planet.

Birds

Birds are a popular and accessible topic of study inside and outside the classroom. Learn about the enormous variety of birds around the world, identify and observe birds in the wild, and find out how your students can become volunteer birders through the many resources in this section.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Frogs, turtles, lizards, and snakes have the power to both captivate and intimidate humans, who often

The screenshots show the NBII website interface. The top banner features the NBII logo and the text "National Biological Information Infrastructure". Below the banner is a navigation menu with options: "NBII Home", "About NBII", "Current Biological Issues", "Biological Disciplines", "Geographic Perspectives", "Teacher Resources" (selected), "Data & Information Resources", "Search", and "Contact Us".

The main content area is titled "Teacher Resources" and includes the following text: "This area of the NBII provides educators, parents, and students of all ages with access to online resources that emphasize the teaching of biology, biodiversity, and ecology. Included are activities, lesson plans, experiments, projects, resources, and references for classroom and home use. The goal of this area of the NBII is to assist teachers and parents in educating today's students and shaping the biologists, resource managers, and environmental stewards of tomorrow." It also includes a call to action: "Resources will continue to be added to this area. Users who wish to share this page should feel free to link to it from their own Web pages. We welcome your comments, suggestions, and submissions for potential new links. Please send your information through the 'Contact Us' link at left."

The second screenshot shows a sub-page titled "Insects, Arachnids, & Annelids" with a "Grades" filter set to "K-3 | 4-6 | 7-8 | 9-12". It lists resources such as "Africanized Honey Bees on the Move: Lesson Plans" and "The Amateur Entomologists' Society's Bug Club for Young Entomologists".

misunderstand and underestimate these creatures' critical roles in ecosystem health. Many species have recently become threatened or endangered by forces not yet apparent to researchers. These links provide resources for exploring anatomies, life cycles, habitats, and common misunderstandings about these animals.

Insects, Arachnids & Annelids

Children are often drawn to the fascinating world of creepy, crawly creatures; teachers know that these organisms are engaging and low maintenance classroom "pets." Learn more about bugs, spiders, and worms through the resources provided here.

Microbes

Though generally invisible to the naked eye, microbes play an important role in the natural world. Share with your students the wonders, and the dangers, of these often forgotten organisms through these fascinating links.

Aquatic Biology

This section offers resources which uncover the astounding diversity of life within the freshwater and marine ecosystems of our planet. Included are links to sites about coral reefs, aquatic invertebrates and mammals, intertidal zones, fishes, and aquatic plant life.

Botany

Plants often provide ideal subjects of study for the classroom, as they are easy to raise and to observe. Find curriculum ideas to supplement studies of plant anatomy, life cycles, and species diversity through the sites indexed in this area.

The screenshot shows the 'Activities in Your State' section of the NBII website. It features a dropdown menu set to 'Alabama' and a 'Go!' button. Below this, there is a paragraph of text describing educational opportunities at state and regional parks, museums, zoos, and research facilities. To the right of the text is a circular graphic of a bee. Below the text, there are links for 'Alabama' and 'Alaska', each followed by a list of specific locations and their websites.

The screenshot shows the 'Biodiversity & Environment' section of the NBII website. It features a navigation menu on the left with options like 'About NBII', 'Current Biological Issues', 'Biological Disciplines', 'Geographic Perspectives', 'Teacher Resources', 'Data & Information Resources', 'Search', and 'Contact Us'. The main content area includes a 'Grades' filter (K-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-12) and a section titled 'Grades K-3' with a link to 'Create a Schoolyard Habitat'. Below this is text about the National Wildlife Federation's program and links to 'Earth Day Links from EELink' and 'Earthwatch Global Classroom'.

concepts as biodiversity, ecosystems, habitats, endangered species, ecology, and food webs.

Activities in Your State

Looking for new and different activities inside and outside the classroom? Invite a ranger to your school; take the kids on a guided tour of a local park, zoo, aquarium, or nature center; order a discovery trunk for your students to explore the outdoors in the classroom; or visit virtual nature exhibits. All of this and more is possible through the myriad opportunities offered by the Web sites in this section, organized by state.

For More Information

For more information on NBII educational resources, please contact:

Program Manager
 NBII National Program Office
 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS 302
 Reston, VA 20192
 Phone: 703-648-NBII (6244)
 Fax: 703-648-4224
 E-mail: nbii@nbii.gov

Biodiversity & Environment

In teaching students today about biological diversity and the web of life, educators help to ensure that the environmental stewards of tomorrow will act wisely and responsibly. The materials indexed in this section can provide teachers with the tools to explain and illuminate such