

LEARNING ABOUT OUR ENVIRONMENT



by Donald C. Edinger
Chairman, Department of Education

The objects and specimens on exhibit here in the Museum represent a rich statement about our environment. The students viewing these objects find that the world itself is our environment rather than a small segment of Illinois. Nearly 80% of the offerings of the Department of Education are directly related to the study of the environment.

From key questions and statements a student can make a series of observations which will help him begin to describe our world. This description not only includes a stop motion for one point in time but several different points in time — often in the same geographic area.

In helping students identify some of the variables affecting the world and its inhabitants, they can begin to predict the consequences of change.

The skills of studying the environment through natural history are taught in

each tour conducted by the staff, both volunteer and professional. These skills include observing, classifying, describing, space/time, inferring and predicting. In the development of these skills and attitudes as intellectual tools, a basis is provided for further study. Each of us feels a great responsibility and a sense of dedication toward teaching a respect for living things, the importance of cause and effect relationships, and most of all, what each individual can do to contribute toward creating the best possible circumstances for all living things.

How other cultures compromised with their environment and what the apparent consequences were, can be observed by the students. The strong inference that time is an increasingly important variable is supported by observations both within and without the Museum.

We hope to stimulate interest and broaden the base of general knowledge. With the cooperation of teachers we feel that a unique experience is provided for school groups that cannot be duplicated in any other way. ■



Edinger, Donald C. 1970. "Learning about the Environment." *Bulletin* 41(3), 17-17.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/21713>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/374787>

Holding Institution

University Library, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

Sponsored by

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the Chicago Field Museum.
For information contact dcc@library.uiuc.edu.

Rights Holder: Field Museum of Natural History

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.