

Curricula and Lesson Plans

'Āina-Based Educational Resources



'Ōhi'a Project

Grades: K-8

Subjects: Native Species, Water Cycle/Watersheds, Invasive Species, Forests, Wetlands

Summary: The goal of the 'Ōhi'a Project is to assist Hawai'i schools in implementing effective environmental education curricula to aid teachers and students in making informed choices for our island environment.

Organization: Moanalua Gardens Foundation

PRISM

Grades: K-8

Subjects: Hawai'i-centered curriculum that focuses on the Hawaiian marine and terrestrial environments, and living Hawaiian culture.

Summary: The PRISM Program provides a scaffolded life science curriculum for grades K-8 that meets the needs of busy classroom teachers with easy-to-understand lesson plans.

Organization: Partnership between UH Hilo's Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science Program and Education Department and Hawai'i Island K-8th grade schools.

Hō'ike o Haleakalā

Grades: 9-12

Subjects: 5 Modules: Alpine/Aeolian, Rain Forest, Coastal, Marine, Invasive Species

Summary: The Hō'ike o Haleakalā curriculum is designed to engage students in the study of the native Hawaiian ecosystems. Each lesson, game, and group activity relates to State of Hawai'i science standards. Lessons can be taught singly or together, as an entire semester-long course.

Organization: Partnership between Maui teachers and field biologists (& Maui Invasive Species Committee)

Project Aloha 'Āina

Grades: 3-12 (Grd. 6 link above, other grades can be found by searching "aloha 'āina" on ulukau.org)

Subjects: Wetlands, Ahupua 'a and Lo 'i, Stream Life, Conservation, Coral Reefs, Gardening, Landforms, Forests

Summary: Each grade level focuses on a different part of the ahupua 'a with an emphasis on Hawaiian values and learning from Hawaiian traditional knowledge. Units align to HCPS III and the State Common Core Standards.

Organization: Pacific American Foundation

Natural Inquirer

Grades: 6-8

Subjects: The research you will read about in this Natural Inquirer was conducted by scientists working at the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, or IPIF. Located in Hilo, HI, scientists at IPIF study a range of environmental topics in Hawai'i and the Pacific Islands.

Summary: A middle school science journal. All of the research in this journal is concerned with nature, trees, wildlife, insects, outdoor activities and water. First students will "meet the scientists" who conduct the research. Then students read special information about science, and then about the environment. Students will also read about a specific research project, written in a way that scientists write when publishing their research in journals. Students become scientists when they do the Discovery FACTivity, learning vocabulary words that help in understanding articles.

Organization: Natural Inquirer

Watershed Model

Grades: 5-7, adaptable

Subjects: Watersheds, Sediment, Erosion, Forest Function, Natural Resources

Summary: Create a mini-watershed using diatomaceous earth and a spray bottle for rain. Explore how watersheds are formed geomorphically and watch how sediment is carried in this system. Examine the changes to a Hawaiian watershed over time and how these changes affect the watershed. Apply problem solving skills to natural resource management

Organization: [East Maui Watershed Partnership](#)