

Introduction

Agriculture is an important industry in the United States, especially in California. As more rural areas become urbanized and more challenges exist to maintain and improve the quality of the planet and feed the people of the world, it is extremely important to educate students about agriculture. Pest management is a current issue in society today. Advances in pest management strategies have encouraged an Integrated Pest Management approach (IPM). This method of pest management continues to benefit the agricultural industry and the environment. However, it is crucial that research and communication continue so the earth's viability and sustainability are reviewed, evaluated, and maintained.

Throughout this interdisciplinary unit, *What's Bugging You?*, students participate in activities that include higher-order thinking skills, creative thinking, role-playing, and problem solving. Care is given to provide variations and extensions to make the unit appropriate for students who have a variety of skills, ability levels, and English language proficiencies. Scientific principles on pest management are provided in a format that encourages students to think critically, creatively, and freely about the complexity of ecosystems and pest management strategies.

This unit can be used to teach or reinforce specific subject matter Content Standards for California Public Schools. The standards which apply to each lesson are listed by grade level, subject matter, and number, on the sidebars of each lesson. A content standard matrix for the entire unit, with the specific standards described, is located on pages 51-58.

What the future holds for agriculture will determine the quality of life for all . . .

- *farmers and ranchers*
- *suppliers*
- *food processors*
- *wholesalers*
- *retailers*
- *consumers!*

