Environmental Education: Promise and Performance

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Abstract

Professional environmental educators promote quality environmental education based on high educational standards. Their aim, in part, is to provide students with knowledge of environmental issues from a variety of scientific perspectives so that the students can make up their own minds on these vital issues. This is what I call the promise, or intent, of environmental education and the leading documents in the discipline reflect this intent.

I agree with these good intentions. Indeed, much of the current debate is not about intent, but rather the performance of environmental education. In other words, when children receive environmental education in the classroom based on curriculum materials or textbooks, or when they go to the school library to check out books about the environment, do they receive information which lives up to this promise or intent? The research record shows that they do not. There is a big gap between intent and performance when students are taught about environmental issues. This paper discusses my efforts to explore and define this gap and discusses my ideas for narrowing it.

Full Text:

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Request full-text. Environmental Education in the 21st Century: Theory, Practice, Progress and Promise. Article · January 1998 with 642 Reads. Cite this publication. Methodologies for educational content delivery and instruction have been going through a revolution thanks to the advancements in computer-based technologies. Serious game technology, as one of these advancements, holds the promise of significantly enhancing the learning of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) concepts, which are traditionally acquired through practical experience. In particular, serious and educational games have been shown to not only engage and motivate students but also facilitate the development of complex problem-solving skills. ENVIRONMENT-BASED EDUCATION: Creating High Performance Schools and Students The development of environmental-based school-to-work programs that test and demonstrate how the environment can be a useful tool for developing in students the skills they will need to succeed in the future workplace. Examination of the effectiveness of education about the environment in supporting education standards such as those for science, mathematics, social studies, and geography. Interest in the environment and environmental education has increased during the past two years and will continue to increase as a result of Earth Day 1990. Many school staff and their client communities are considering what they should do as a follow-up to Earth Day and are searching for useful programs and materials. While new programs and materials are constantly being developed, a variety of programs and materials are currently available. This digest identifies a selection of completed programs and materials completed and under development. What should be included in an environmental educa...