

Teacher's Guide to **DISCOVER WILD** ™

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Positive Solutions USA
739 SW Tenth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97205
503-226-7844 day
503-227-7935 FAX

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Track Illustrations by Travis J. Schumacher

Edited by Gary B. Barrett

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INTRODUCTION TO DISCOVER WILD

Welcome to **DISCOVER WILD**! You and your students are about to explore the fascinating world of animals in a unique way. Together you will use your imagination and the tools of education to find solutions to wildlife problems. Students will begin to use science and knowledge to develop their views about wildlife and why it is important to humans and the ecosystems of the Earth. With the information included in the Teacher's Guide, you and your students will perceive hope for this planet through education, rather than despair. You will be able to empower students with your creative teaching abilities and scientific knowledge and to look optimistically into the future, not longingly at the past. You both may look at wildlife differently when you have used **DISCOVER WILD** in the classroom. We think you will find that **DISCOVER WILD** makes teaching and learning a challenging and rewarding experience.

The **DISCOVER WILD** reference set is designed to be a unique and exciting educational supplement to a classroom or other instructional environment. In this age of computers and multimedia education, we have chosen the interactive method of hands-on learning to help students of all ages become interested about animals and their habitats. We use real fur, color pictures, and straightforward text to stimulate student interest in wildlife.

Most of us do not have the opportunity to cross paths with a wild Lynx or a Badger. Today, fewer than 3 percent of our citizens engage in agriculture. We have become an urban society living in cities and subdivisions where our only contact with domestic livestock is at the local restaurant or the grocery meat counter. Our only experiences with large mammals are with animals at the zoo, our pets at home, television programs, or books. **DISCOVER WILD** brings children closer to wildlife by challenging their vivid imaginations through tactile experience. It is for this reason **DISCOVER WILD** was created.

We hope you enjoy **DISCOVER WILD**!

Sincerely,

Mark J. Schumacher

PLEASE NOTE: No endangered or threatened species were used to create the Discover Wild reference set. All samples were legally obtained in strict compliance with all fish and wildlife laws. When possible, used materials have been recycled to create this product. Positive Solutions USA supports wildlife conservation practices that improve habitat and ensure healthy, viable wildlife populations, which can be properly used and enjoyed by future generations.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The **DISCOVER WILD** Teacher's Guide is designed to be used with the **DISCOVER WILD** fur reference set by teachers of kindergarten through the seventh grade students. It is intended to be a useful educational supplement to any classroom activity or course of study that explores animals and wildlife.

The guide is divided into nine units, each featuring a major wildlife study topic. At the beginning of each of these units is a detailed explanation of the topic and an outline for the teacher to use in the classroom. There is a list of the vocabulary words used throughout the unit. These vocabulary words can be used as spelling words for the week. Also listed are the subjects covered within the unit and the science concepts and processes taught in the challenge work sheets.

There are at least five challenge work sheets in each unit. These sheets contain information and questions about the unit topic. The challenges can be used as an outline for classroom discussion or for individual or group work assignments in class. Challenges can also be readily used as homework assignments. The word searches are fun and instructional for all ages.

The difficulty level of each challenge work sheet is best evaluated by the instructor's knowledge of his or her students' abilities. Generally, when taught orally all ages can grasp the major concepts and answer the questions. The answers become more complete and well thought out as the grade level increases.

Use of the fur samples by teachers and students adds a new dimension to involvement of the students in the learning process. The opportunity to show students the fur of a wild animal or for the student to touch the fur when doing a report about the animal is exciting. In studying history and the importance of animals to the opening of the West, wildlife science, biology, or any other subject related to animals, use of the samples will help to stimulate discussion and involve students.

Answers to the questions asked in the challenges are listed in the appendices. Note that many of the questions do not have a correct or incorrect answer. The goal is to stimulate the thought process and promote the organization of ideas in a logical sequence.

Appendix B, a glossary, gives definitions of vocabulary words used in this teacher's guide.

We know that you will come up with many other creative ideas for using **DISCOVER WILD** in the classroom. If you would care to share your ideas with others, we will publish the best ones in a supplement giving credit to the teacher and the school. We would appreciate hearing from you. If you have any remarks, criticisms, suggestions, or good ideas, please send them to:

DISCOVER WILD

c/o Positive Solutions USA
739 SW Tenth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97205

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