

CLIMATE CHANGE COLLECTION SCORECARD

Date: 11/28/04

Reviewer: Kirsten Butcher

Name of resource: *The Greenhouse Effect*

Sponsoring Organization: University Corporation for Atmospheric Research

URL: http://www.ucar.edu/learn/1_3_1.htm

Site Homepage: <http://www.ucar.edu/learn/index.htm>

RESOURCE WITHIN A SITE? **Y** / N

FOUND THROUGH DLESE? **Y** / N

RECOMMENDATION **YES** YES WITH RESERVATIONS NO

STARS 1 2 3 **4** 5 (LAME TO STELLAR)

NARRATIVE (USE OTHER SIDE IF NEEDED)

This site offers a good overview on the greenhouse effect and provides two hands-on activities for students. Critical concepts are outlined, assessment questions are provided, and materials lists and time estimates are provided for activities. Although sticklers for scientific accuracy may take issue with the "atmosphere as blanket" metaphor that is used, this will be a helpful resource for beginning teachers to use in planning lessons and gaining knowledge.

INTENDED USE

REFERENCE

COMPUTER ACTIVITY

NON-COMPUTER ACTIVITY

EDUCATOR, LEARNER OR BOTH (CIRCLE)

BEGINNER OR ADVANCED (CIRCLE)

BUGS & TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES (PROBLEMATIC TO ROBUST)

1 2 3 **4**

COMMENTS

I had no problems whatsoever with this site.

FACTUAL ERROS/OMISSIONS (NATIONAL ENQUIRER TO NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC)

1 2 **3** 4

COMMENTS

Clearly designed to give educators information for a younger audience, but does rely on some questionable metaphors (the atmosphere as a blanket). Does differentiate between the greenhouse effect (a natural and important effect of the atmosphere) and global warming as an "enhanced greenhouse effect."

PEDAGOGICAL INFORMATION

REFERENCE ONLY

TEACHER GUIDE

MATERIALS LIST

ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES

TIMEFRAME PROVIDED

STANDARDS ALIGNMENT

PROMOTES STUDENT LEARNING (WEAK TO STRONG)

1 2 3 **4**

COMMENTS

There is a lot of useful information, clearly outlined activities, ties to standards, an outline of critical concepts, and assessment questions. The site clearly provides support to teachers who are beginning to teach this topic, especially if they could use a refresher on the material themselves.

APPROPRIATE/EFFECTIVE MULTIMEDIA DESIGN (WEAK TO STRONG)

1 2 **3** 4

COMMENTS

There are some content based diagrams that are fairly well integrated with the text. But some of them are not clearly necessary to understanding the content and do little more than decorate the text. No real use of interactive multimedia. But there are some useful diagrams in the student activities that illustrate the instructions for using materials.

VISUAL APPEAL (WEAK TO STRONG)

1 2 **3** 4

COMMENTS

The diagrams and pictures add some appeal, but the blocks of text are fairly long. There are some good efforts to give main headers to organize the text – these could be expanded for further visual appeal and ease of information seeking.

TEACHING TIPS: ANNOTATION DESCRIBING HOW SITE COULD BE USED OR ADAPTED FOR CLASSROOM
I imagine that beginning teachers may very well wind up using the textual content in handouts. The activities include a student guide that can be printed for students, in addition to a teacher guide describing the activity.

RECOMMENDATION: ANNOTATION DESCRIBING HOW THE DEVELOPER COULD IMPROVE THE SITE.