



Curriculum Units by Fellows of the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute
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The Impact of Poverty, Waste Management, and Ethics in the Control of Parasitic Infections

Guide for Curriculum Unit 99.06.08
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Am I my brothers' keeper? As part of an interdependent web of all living creatures we all need to answer this question for ourselves. This unit is designed to give a face and a story to a variety of peoples that presently exist in our lives only through the media.

This curriculum unit is designed to be used over a two-week period, although it can easily be expanded in many ways. It is both an introduction to parasite biology and a look at the widespread devastation caused by them. Through the use of supportive data students will examine a variety of factors that either foster or inhibit the spread of these diseases.

Students will be encouraged to look past the obvious cause and effect of transmission, and instead to investigate some of the less obvious, though more often controlling issues involved.

Students will gather data, construct graphs and charts, and draw conclusions as to the relative effects that poverty, waste management and ethics have in combating parasitic diseases.

It is hoped that this investigation will give students a greater appreciation of the benefits of living in an industrialized society. It is also hoped that it will foster a better understanding of our individual roles in the stewardship of this planet and awaken them to the desire to look beyond their current borders, whether they be neighborhood, city, state, country or larger.

Through a combination of role-playing, discussion, debate, and hands on activities the students will drive much of this unit. Included in this unit is a performance based learning and assessment activity that will lead them to try some higher order thinking skills.

By controlling the data sets used, this unit can be adapted for a wide range of educational abilities from middle school through high school.

(Recommended for General Science/Ecology, Life Science/Health, and Biology)

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