

Glossary



assessment - Collection of information (from program participants and other sources) to determine if stated program objectives have been met

assumptions - The beliefs we have about the program, the participants, and the way we expect the program to operate; the principles that guide our work

attitudes - To acquire a set of values and feelings of concern for the environment and motivation for actively participating in environmental improvement and protection

awareness - To acquire an awareness and sensitivity to the total environment and its allied problems

Belgrade Charter - Adopted in 1975 at a United Nations conference in the former Yugoslavia, provides a widely accepted goal statement for environmental education

belief - What individuals hold to be true

Best Practice - A program or practice that has been clearly defined, refined through repeated delivery, and supported by a substantial body of research [These practices represent the best knowledge available for use under specified circumstances. It's important to note that Best Practices may change over time. They are recommendations based on what has been observed to be effective to date, but which may change given additional experience, evaluation, and research.]

communication - The imparting or interchange of thoughts, opinions, or information by speech, writing, or signs

cooperative learning - The teaching strategy that allows learners to work in small groups to explore a new idea, gather information, discuss ideas, apply concepts and solve a problem

curriculum - A plan of instruction that details what students are to know, how they are to learn, and what the teacher's role is

education - The act or process of imparting or acquiring general knowledge, developing the powers of reasoning and judgment, and generally of preparing oneself or others intellectually for mature life

empowerment - A sense of being able to make changes, resolve important problems, do it independently of others

environmental education - The goal of environmental education is to "Develop a world population that is aware of, and concerned about, the total environment and its associated problems, and which has the knowledge, attitudes, skills, motivation, and commitment to work individually and collectively toward solutions of current problems and the prevention of new ones." (UNESCO-UNEP, 1976)

environmental sensitivity - An increased level of empathy toward the natural environment

environmental stewardship - For the purposes of this Workbook, environmental stewardship was defined as informed, responsible action/behavior on behalf of the environment and future generations

A more detailed definition: "Stewardship is the moral obligation to care for the environment and the actions undertaken to provide that care. Stewardship implies the existence of an ethic of personal responsibility, an ethic of behavior based on reverence for the Earth and a sense of obligation to future generations. To effectively care for the environment, individuals must use resources wisely and efficiently, in part by placing self-imposed limits on personal consumption and altering personal expectations, habits and values. Appropriate use of natural resources within the stewardship ethic involves taking actions that respect the integrity of natural systems."

ethics - An internal system that determines correct behavior

ethnographic method - A research method in which the investigator resides within the community being studied

evaluation, formative - Evaluation that occurs while the program or materials are being developed/produced—focusing on improving their effectiveness

evaluation, program - The systematic collection and scrutiny of information about the activities, characteristics, and outcomes of programs to make judgments about the program, improve program effectiveness, and/or inform decisions about future programming

evaluation, summative - Evaluation that occurs after the program or materials are completed/implemented—proving that they achieve their stated performance outcomes

experimental methods - The effect of manipulating an independent variable on a dependent or outcome variable that can be observed while the effects of other relevant factors are minimized

focus groups - A small number of individuals assembled to discuss a topic of interest to an evaluator or to an agency/organization

inclusive - Encourages participation by minorities and people with disabilities

inputs - The resources you would need in order to implement a program including staff, money, equipment, facilities, administrative approvals, budget authority, agreement with cooperating agencies, etc.

interdisciplinary - Programs or efforts that encompass multiple educational disciplines (such as a fishing education program that includes mathematics, social studies, and science)

interpersonal discrimination - Actions carried out by members of the dominant group that have differential and negative impacts on the minority group (These actions can be nonverbal cues, verbal harassment, physical gestures, assaults, and harassment.)

journal - The student's ongoing work that leads to a project (a diary of sorts), or on his/her thinking and pursuit of information about a subject area

knowledge - To gain a variety of experiences in and acquire a basic understanding of, the environment and its associated problems

locus of control - The attribute of a person who senses that he or she has the ability to influence the outcome of a situation

longitudinal studies - Panel of participants, a fixed number of individuals, who respond to questions over time (weeks, months, or years, depending on study design)

marketing - Determining what consumers want and need and then providing it

National Environmental Education Act of 1970 - This act stated that environmental education "is intended to promote among citizens the awareness and understanding of the environment, our relationship to it, and the concern and responsible action necessary to assure our survival and to improve the quality of life"

outputs - Includes things such as how many people would attend, how many would be reached or exposed to a message, how satisfied participants would be with their experience, etc.

outcomes - Things such as increased environmental awareness and knowledge, changed attitudes and opinions, and establishment of a foundation for responsible behavior toward the environment

participation - To encourage citizens to use their knowledge to become actively involved at all levels in working toward resolution of environmental problems

portfolio - Collection of student work that demonstrates increasing proficiency

program logic model - Simplified, visual description of how different factors of the program are related

promotion - Communicating to your audience that you have a product or service they may want

rubrics - Specific guidelines given to students ahead of time that show how the teachers will allocate points to assess their work

service learning - Students conducting projects that are beneficial to the community and have direct links to the curriculum

skills - To acquire the skills for identifying and solving environmental problems

stakeholders - People who have some sort of a stake or interest in the program that is being developed; people that care, are willing to develop a commitment and are best able to offer input

stewardship - See environmental stewardship

stewardship ethic - When a person feels an obligation to consider not only his own personal well-being, but also that of his surroundings and human society as a whole

surveys - A series of questions to be asked of a sample group of people

Tbilisi Declaration - In 1977, representatives from 68 nations gathered for the world's first intergovernmental conference on environmental education. This conference, held in Tbilisi in the former Soviet Republic of Georgia, led to the release of an official statement on environmental education—the Tbilisi Declaration. Built on the Belgrade Charter, the Tbilisi Declaration acclaimed the important role of environmental education in the preservation and improvement of the world's environment, as well as in the sound and balanced development of the world's communities

values - What individuals hold to be important regarding problems/issues and alternative solutions/action strategies