Animalearn
HUMANE SCIENCE EDUCATION

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF DISSECTION

Environmental Impact of Dissection

Millions of animals are killed for classroom dissection each year so that students from elementary through high school, and beyond, can learn anatomy. Not only is this cruel and unnecessary, but it is not an environmentally sound practice.

Problems

Ecosystem Impact

Many frogs used for dissection are wild caught, disrupting the balance of ecosystems. Animalearn found that close to 1 million frogs were taken from the wild in Mexico, over a three-year period, for use in U.S. science classes.

Toxic Chemicals

The chemicals used to preserve animal specimens often contain formaldehyde, a "hazardous air pollutant, water pollutant, and waste constituent," according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Health Hazards

Formaldehyde has been linked to cancers of the throat, lungs, and nasal passages, especially with prolonged exposure. Children may be more susceptible to the respiratory effects of formaldehyde than adults.

Wasteful

Destroying millions of animals for a one-time classroom exercise reinforces the idea that they are merely disposable “tools” who have no real value as individuals or as members of a species.

Solution

Make the investment into non-animal, Earth-friendly science resources!

By choosing to do away with preserved animal specimens, you are not only helping to provide a safer lab experience with no exposure to toxic chemicals but you are also teaching young people to have respect for living creatures and the environment.

To learn more about how to create a kinder classroom for students, animals, and the environment, check out Animalearn's FREE loan program, The Science Bank.

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