

# Conceptual Matrix

<b>CONTENT</b> <b>PROCESS</b>	<b>NATURAL ENVIRONMENT</b> Systems and Interactions	<b>BUILT ENVIRONMENT</b> Human Changes to Natural Systems	<b>PERSONAL ENVIRONMENT</b> Individuals' Responsibilities and Roles
<b>FOSTERING AWARENESS OF AND APPRECIATION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT</b>	Students are aware of and appreciate how all organisms, including humans, interact and are interdependent with each other and the nonliving systems of natural environments.	Students are aware that human systems depend upon natural systems. They appreciate how humans use natural resources and alter natural environments, and acknowledge that such use and alteration may have a local and potentially global impact on both the natural and built environment.	Students are aware of their role in both the natural and built environment and show an interest in improving the quality of these environments.
<b>UNDERSTANDING BASIC ENVIRONMENTAL CONCEPTS</b>	Students gain knowledge of ecological principles and concepts to help them understand how natural systems function and change. They also develop skills to critically analyze information and learn how to solve problems concerning the environment.	Students gain knowledge and understanding of how human ecology and social, political and economic systems influence and shape the natural and built environment. They understand the importance of balancing the needs of human communities with those of natural communities.	Students gather and apply information, and use critical thinking and decision-making skills to investigate problems and issues affecting natural and built environments. They understand that their personal actions and choices may have long- and short-term environmental consequences.
<b>ACTING RESPONSIBLY IN THE ENVIRONMENT</b>  2001	Students apply their knowledge of ecological principles and concepts and use their skills to analyze and resolve problems that have an impact on the health, integrity and sustainability of natural environments.	Students apply their knowledge and analytical skills to make choices that sustain both natural and built environments. They demonstrate responsible, sustainable use of natural resources to reduce their impact on natural environments.	Informed by their knowledge and skills, students make responsible choices and demonstrate their commitment to conserving natural resources and improving the quality of all environments for the benefit of present and future generations.