

Bog Blog: Bugs on the Bog What's Your Pest Management Strategy?

Notes to the Teacher

This Bog Blog assignment relates to the *Exploring Cranberries* lesson, **Bugs on the Bog**. As with the blog assignment that follows **Adopt a Bog**, this writing assignment will serve as an opportunity to synthesize and summarize complex and varied information that students have encountered.

While any writing assignment can meet almost any of your language arts goals, this Bog Blog is intended to give your students practice in:

- writing with a clear focus, coherent organization, and sufficient detail
- organizing their ideas in writing in a way that makes sense for their purpose
- gathering information from a variety of sources, analyze and evaluate the quality of the information they obtain, and use it to answer their own questions

In Massachusetts, these goals address the Learning Standards #19, 23 and 24 in the English Language Arts Curriculum Framework.

The content of this writing piece is intended to help culminate the study of insect pest management on bogs, encouraging a final examination of the importance of the context in which any one strategy is pursued. The optional follow-up blog assignment is an opportunity to stress this idea, as students will have to consider the ideas of different students with different bogs and pest situations.

Note that the students will access this bog blog via a link from the Student Home Page. Clicking on the link will open an interactive Word form. The student responses are limited to 40 characters for their names and 1200 characters (about half a page) for their responses. Each student should save his or her blog with a unique name to a file folder you designate.

For your reference, the text of the student prompt appears on the following page.

Bog Blog Prompt

You have decided how you're going to handle the insect pest population on your bog. The Growers Association is collecting this information so that growers can understand how others are handling similar concerns. Write a summary that includes the following information:

- *What type of insects are on your bog?*
- *Which one(s) are a concern for you? What evidence led you to that conclusion?*
- *How will you treat this problem?*
- *Why do you think this will be effective?*

Finally, identify another management strategy. Explain why you did not choose it for this insect pest situation.

As you write this piece, keep in mind that you do not need to convince anyone that you are correct. You simply need to explain your situation and why you chose your pest management strategy. Other people will read your blog and wish to understand your thinking