



# Urban Ecologist

**Provided by:**

Iowa State University Extension  
and Outreach, Scott County  
875 Tanglefoot Lane  
Bettendorf, Iowa 52722  
563-359-7577  
[www.extension.iastate.edu/scott](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/scott)

Information	Program Description
2nd-5th Grade, but can be adapted for younger and older students.	Students explore the natural world through the eyes of ecologist Carmen Cid. They will learn to sharpen their observations of the natural world through lessons on: systematic observations, conducting investigations, interpreting data, conducting experiments, and understanding evidence.
Curriculum Format	Each lesson can be presented in 45-60 minutes.  Teaching Guide with complete instructions is provided.  Teaching Kit with materials needed to present lessons is provided. User may need to provide standard classroom supplies (pencils, scissors, glue). If a lesson requires perishable items (e.g. milk), user is responsible for these purchases.

Lesson	Overview
One: Sound Sense	Students will watch a video about ecologist Carmen Cid then discuss what they saw in the video using their observation skills. There is a short activity that explains the different ways you can observe with their eyes and ears.
Two: Cool Tool	Students will learn how to test whether or not they have a healthy environment around them. This lesson includes activities to conduct and plan an investigation, how to estimate, how to measure and interpret data, while developing an understanding of diversity and ecosystems.
Three: Seedy Travelers	Students will investigate a variety of seeds and use their observation skills on how they might move. This lesson allows students to collect, analyze, interpret and display data.
Four: Walk on Water Bugs	Students will explore water pollutants by creating a water bug. This lesson has the students conduct a simple experiment to answer questions and develop an understanding of form and function.
Five: Drain Game	Students will learn why it is important to keep a watershed healthy, by building a mountain and making it rain.

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider. For the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries, go to [www.extension.iastate.edu/diversity/ext](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/diversity/ext).*