

Ideas of Turkish Elementary School Students on Environmental Phenomena

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The aim of this study is to investigate the knowledge level and misconception of elementary school students about greenhouse effect, ozone layer depletion and acid rain. A three-point likert type scale comprising 25 items, which was implemented by Khalid (1999) was used in the study. However, students were also asked open-ended questions to explain their answers for each question. The study was conducted to determine whether there was significant difference between different classes on their knowledge level. This study was carried out with 264 elementary school students studying in Hatay province in Turkey. In order to evaluate the data acquired from the questionnaire, statistical process was applied. Both the qualitative and quantitative results of the data showed that the elementary school students did not have sufficient knowledge about greenhouse effect, ozone layer depletion and acid rain and it was noticed that students had misconceptions and there was a significant difference between different classes.

Keywords: Acid rain; Environmental education; Greenhouse effect; Misconception; Ozone layer depletion