"The rain in Spain falls mainly in the plain," but the acid forming gases in the atmosphere tend to fall elsewhere as acid rain. Some acid forming gases, such as carbon dioxide, are normal in the atmosphere. However, increased amounts of carbon dioxide and other acid forming gases come from human activities such as burning fossil fuels. Scientists, governments, the media, and the public are paying increasing attention to acid deposition and acid rain.

Studying acid rain would make an excellent class project. This topic can emphasize the basic activities of science, observation and experimentation, at a variety of grade levels. By studying this "real world" problem students can discover how information gathered by scientists is applied to decision making in the social-political realm. It would also show students that acid rain, like many environmental concerns, has regional and global implications.

The Acid Rain Foundation has produced the booklet, ACID RAIN: Science Projects. It takes a science fair project approach, guiding the students from what is known about acid rain to an understanding of acids, bases, indicators, the pH scale and how acid rain is studied. Students monitor rainfall for acidity and investigate the responses of living things to simulated acid rain. Then they summarize, conclude, and make predictions based on their studies.

ACID RAIN and other items, including curriculum guides, information packets, audio-visual programs, and posters are in their catalog. For your copy send a stamped, self-addressed, business size envelope to: The Acid Rain Foundation, Inc., 1630 Blackhawk Hills, St. Paul, MN 55122.

The American Chemical Society has produced a pamphlet called, "Acid Rain." It summarizes what is and is not known about acid deposition. Obtain a single copy by sending a self-addressed mailing label to: Department of Government Relations and Science Policy, A. C. S., 1155 Sixteenth Street NW, Wash., D.C. 20036.

"Acid Rain -- The Effects on Aquatic Species" is a free poster available from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Room 148, Matomic Bldg., 1717 H Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

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