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CHROMOSOME STUDY OF BLOOD. Difco Kit Rx 12513.

The kit is well planned and designed to give a different approach to the study of chromosomes which is much better than the study of onion root tips. The instructions are well written and seem to be understood by the better qualified student.

However, the kit is too difficult for the entire class to work with since so many in the secondary school biology classes are selected at random and the spread of intelligence is very wide. For use in a second level course or with students who have had training in biology, chemistry, and laboratory techniques the kit would work out fine.

There is a great need for chromosome study of many different cells of the body and this one serves this purpose to a great extent. The kit, also, seems to stimulate the student to try other methods and techniques to study the chromosomes of the other cells of living things.

The instructions leave much to be desired if it is planned for use in general biology classes. With some changes in the instructions, it might be adaptable to biology classes on the secondary level.

The stimulating factor to the kit is that it approaches an old study with new materials. More kits of this type would be acceptable in other studies besides the study of chromosomes. The material is somewhat a stereotype approach but could be revised to leave the study more open to stimulate the individual to develop methods of his own.

J. Maxwell Davis  
*Wm. Henry Harrison School*  
*Evansville, Indiana*

### Ecology

AN ECOLOGICAL APPROACH TO CONSERVATION,  
Russel L. Hamm and Larry Nason, 366 pp.,  
\$6.75, Burgess Publishing Company, Minne-  
apolis, 1964.

This should be a very useful book for the school library. It is well written and illustrated and full of suggested conservation projects, topics for discussion, and lists of audio-visual materials.

In general, the book is pitched at a level which should be suitable for the high school student. It might also serve as an outline for a college or advanced high school course. Most of the material is well-selected, and the presentation is brief enough to accommodate most spans of interest.

I do not agree completely with all the viewpoints expressed. For example, the "Smokey the Bear" approach to forest conservation is, in my opinion, too simplified. The prevention of forest fires in many types of forests is an absolute

necessity. But the role of fire in some forest associations such as the ponderosa pines of the west, and the yellow pines of the southeastern U. S. is very different from that which it plays in the eastern deciduous woodlands. I think we need to encourage much more research and thinking about the ecology of forests. The simple answer is not always adequate as the situation in California dramatically points out almost every year.

Frank N. Young  
*Department of Zoology  
Indiana University*

PORTRAIT OF AN ISLAND, Mildred and John Teal, 167 pp., \$3.95, Atheneum Publishers, New York, 1964.

This book paints a vivid word picture of nature on Sapelo Island, one of the sea islands off of Georgia. It is written in language easily understood by junior high school and high school youth, as well as any adult interested in science. The book explains the origin of the island, with the natural division of its parts: the land, the marsh, and the beach. The interaction of the tide and the winds that form the climate of Sapelo Island, and of the plants and animals that live on and in the three areas—to the mutual benefit of all—is described in such a manner as to make the reader live the experience of the authors. *Portrait of an Island* is a description of the geological formation, the physical characteristics, and the natural history of the three main areas of the island.

The book is written with much interesting terminology by the authors, and it is evident that this fine writing couple thoroughly enjoyed their stay on the island; they describe the island as being one of the most beautiful spots on earth. The story of the island includes excellent descriptions of the kinds of living things, as well as the inanimate, and the complex interrelationships affecting all. This is certainly an excellent resource book from an ecological point of view, and will undoubtedly be utilized by both science-minded students as well as casual lay readers. The illustrator of the book is R. D. Rice, of Great Barrington, Massachusetts, and the illustrations are artistically done as well as informative. In spite of their simplicity, the illustrations enable the reader to have a feeling for the flora and fauna of this unusual island. This text is of great value because of its descriptions and unusual presentation. It is undoubtedly going to be of special interest to all readers.

Stanley B. Brown  
*School of Education  
Indiana University*

## FILMS FOR BIOLOGY

A new series of films in Ecology for use in high school Biology and General Science classes. The films were produced in collaboration with the Chicago Natural History Museum and the National Museum of Canada. Educational Consultant Kenneth W. Cummins, Ph.D. The University of Pittsburg.

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