

basis of the results of a two week scavenger hunt in which each participant was given a list of ten items to find. These items were to be arranged or mounted in an aesthetic as well as scientific manner using techniques learned during the course. The scavenger lists, which included such items as three types of ferns, two kinds of plant galls, a pore fungus, two types of spider webs, a sea shell collection, oyster shell with drill holes, whelk egg cases, etc., resulted in the production of an array of displays that were breathtaking both in originality and beauty. This innovation in evaluation, which furnished the participants with study materials for their returning classes, was a most rewarding activity for both the participants and the project staff.

The main purpose of the Cooperative Program was to make selected key teachers aware of the

myriad teaching opportunities in their everyday surroundings. The success of the program was based on a cooperative effort by many groups—the university, the school system, the public and private organizations that opened their facilities to the participants and, at the grass roots, the program participants training other teachers. The ultimate beneficiary is, of course, the elementary school pupil. Imagine the type of science instruction they are going to obtain from the teacher who said, “I can’t wait to get back to school in September to start using what we’ve learned.”

Note

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THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT YOUR TEETH

Did you know that nearly 22 million Americans, one in every eight, have lost *all* their teeth? It’s a fact!

Over 50% of us have at least one cavity at the ripe old age of two, and the average 21-year-old has five teeth missing. Tooth decay is still the nation’s number one disease!

These facts appear even more amazing when you realize that your teeth are one of the most nearly indestructible parts of your body; 300,000-year-old-Java man was discovered with a tooth still in his head.

The ancient Romans used toothpicks made of the pleasant-tasting wood of the mastix tree to clean their teeth. And gold toothpicks thought to be almost 35,000 years old have been found in China.

In the Middle Ages, every well-dressed gentleman always carried a toothpick, sometimes on a chain around his neck, but more often as part of an elaborate set that also included tweezers, knife, fork and spoon, and a hunting whistle.

The bristle toothbrush was invented by the Chinese, probably in the 15th century. But before the 18th century, most people brushed their teeth with “fiber pencils.” These were usually made by stripping a twig or root of its bark, soaking it in water, and beating the end until the fibers separated to form a fine brush.

When the bristle toothbrush became popular in Europe and America, late in the 18th century, it aroused a storm of controversy among dentists, many of whom were sure that cleaning with a stiff brush could only damage teeth and gums. And it wasn’t until well into the 19th century that most

dentists began to agree on the virtues of firm bristles.

Perhaps trying to avoid the fate of toothlessness, primitive man literally worshipped his teeth. Later on, tooth-brushing was a part of religious rituals. Mohammed enjoined his followers to use the *miswak*, a fiber pencil made from the arak twig, as part of the Sabbath cleansing rites. And Sustra, an Indian physician of the 6th century B. C., wrote that cleaning the teeth every morning not only removed odors from the mouth and gave men relish for their food, but also encouraged cheerfulness of mind and inclined people towards religion.

In the Middle Ages, the shape of a man’s teeth was considered to be an indication of his character. The Germans believed that long, sharp teeth bespoke a jealous, treacherous nature. The English applauded broad front teeth as signs of generosity. The French admired straight teeth as symbols of an orderly mind. And all medieval citizens looked askance at teeth with spaces between them, proof of a lecherous nature.

Fluorides provide the best protection against tooth decay. The fluorides kill the bacteria and act as a wall on teeth against new bacteria.

Free copies of *Home Care of the Mouth*, are available from the American Dental Association, 222 East Superior Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

EAR-BONE TRANSPLANTS

It may someday be possible to restore hearing by transplanting tiny ear bones from one person to another. The operation has been successfully performed on cats, and similar research is now underway in human ears.