

Audiovisual Reviews

NOW YOU KNOW ABOUT MEASURING . . . THE METRIC WAY

1976. Encyclopaedia Britannica Educational Corporation (425 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago 60611). Five audio-tapes, one teacher's guide, and five hardback student books. Purchase \$69.50.

The series is designed to provide elementary school children with opportunities to explore the metric system. A teacher's guide, five hardback student books, five tape recordings, and a plastic centimeter ruler are included in the series.

Each book focuses on a specific theme: awareness of measurement concepts; linear measurement; measurement of area; measurement of volume; and mass and weight. Although the books are illustrated with colorful, often humorous, pictures that will appeal to most children, there appears to be an overabundance of printed textual material on some pages. The authors chose the recommended spelling for *metre* and *litre* of *Le Systeme International L'Unites*. The alternative spelling, *meter* and *liter*, is recommended by the Interstate Consortium on Metric Education and the National Bureau of Standards.

Technically, the tape recordings are excellent. Side 1 of each tape presents a child reading the text of the book; this would be extremely helpful to the beginning reader. Side 2 of each tape provides enrichment and supplementary materials and develops the theme of the book in greater depth. While listening to the tapes children are asked to complete certain tasks and respond to various questions. Many inquiry-oriented questions and problems are presented throughout the recordings. Unfortunately, the children are frequently not given sufficient time to accomplish the task. In addition, children are not reminded initially to turn off the recorder when responding to the tasks. The major weakness of the recording and books is that great quantities of information and difficult concepts are presented within a brief period of time.

The teacher's guide includes additional activities, procedures, and lesson

plans to be used in conjunction with the recording and books. The narrations for the enrichment recordings, Side 2 of the tapes, are printed in the guide.

This series would be a fine addition to elementary school libraries and media centers.

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TECHNOLOGY AND VALUES: THE ENERGY CONNECTION

1979. Barr Films (3490 East Foothills Boulevard, Pasadena, California 91107). 16 mm color-sound film. 18 minutes. Purchase \$320; rental \$32.

This film uses animation to explore the conflicts of values involved in societal demands for technological development, productivity, environmental protection and conservation of energy and other resources. Although they are not clearly demarcated in the film itself, five thematic elements pervade the presentation: (1) the history of energy resource development and utilization; (2) issues of technology and lifestyle; (3) the need for changes in attitudes and value orientations; (4) the status of humankind as an "endangered species"; and (5) the prospects of alternative futures.

The film presents too many complex ideas too quickly. Ideas and concepts

Faith Hickman, Audiovisuals Editor, selects materials and coordinates the review process for this feature. Catherine Marble is her assistant. Their continuing contribution to the journal is deeply appreciated.

Readers interested in becoming audiovisual reviewers are invited to write to Ms. Hickman. General inquirers on this feature should also be addressed directly to her at:

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related to these themes are presented in rapid succession throughout the 18-minute film sequence. The animation and sound effects tend toward cartoon characterizations and, in my opinion, are distracting and inappropriate to the subject.

There was no way to determine the appropriate target audience for the film. Those already familiar with the ideas presented are not likely to be impressed by the cartoon characterizations. An audience unfamiliar with the ideas and concepts will not be helped in understanding because the presentation is too superficial.

I find it difficult to recommend this film to anyone in biology education, but perhaps someone involved with adult civic groups would find it entertaining and useful as a stimulus to in-depth discussions.

Thomas J. Cleaver
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BIRTH CONTROL—FIVE EFFECTIVE METHODS

1977. Sterling Educational Films (241 East 34th Street, New York 10016). 16 mm color-sound film. 9 minutes. Rental or purchase cost available upon request.

In spite of the wealth of educational materials available, there still is a high incidence of unwanted teenage pregnancies attributable to a lack of knowledge of contraceptive measures. In this film, a female narrator discusses five methods of birth control in terms of advantages, disadvantages, effectiveness, availability, and usage. Using a nude model and diagrams, the proper placement of materials for effective contraception is clearly described. This film would be an excellent supplement to discussions on the reproductive system or as part of health education classes at the junior high or early high school level.

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