

AV Reviews

Rachel Hays
Department Editor

The living ocean. 1988. National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C. Film/video. 25 min. Purchase \$384/\$235.

Superb photography, logical theme progression and fast-paced sequencing in dealing with the multifaceted area of oceanography are significant elements of this program. For this critical topic, which usually receives minimal coverage, supplemental materials of this quality are important. The program involves exploring ocean study through such aspects, in sequence, as: ocean formation, salinity maintenance, plate tectonics, food webs, climate/weather and man's impact.

High quality scenes portray topics that are difficult to communicate adequately through other methods. Examples of such topics include: ocean mapping, electron microscopy, coral reef, hurricane forecasting and pollution impact. Exceptional narration vividly describes the scenes.

The teacher's guide includes a program synopsis, objectives, vocabulary and activities. Although the four-page guide is helpful and logically organized, for the price, a more extensive guide that includes sample lesson plans should be provided.

This high quality production helps bridge the gap between text and reality. With the explosion of understanding about oceanography and the importance of the oceans to man's future, this program should be a valuable asset to any school.

Bruce M. Boswell
Normal Community High School
Normal, IL

Ocean symphony: the ultimate underwater adventure. 1987. MCA Home Video, Coronet/MTI Film & Video, Deerfield, IL. VHS video. 47 min. Purchase \$29.95.

This is the most unique video I have seen. There is no narration—only an original music score. Specific aspects of oceanography are vividly portrayed with spectacular photography and a brief caption at the beginning of each of the 11 segments.

Topics included in the video are killer whales, jellyfish, corridors of ice, the great white shark, creatures of the seafloor, the octopus, humpback whales, sea lions, sea floor predators, undersea forests and the deep frontier. Although each segment is excellent, the sections on whales and the white shark are exceptional. The program could be used in total or by segment.

The viewer's guide provides a short synopsis of each chapter, but there are no other materials for teacher assistance. Despite this lack of significant teacher materials, this intriguing and superbly done program is certainly worth the small cost.

Bruce M. Boswell
Normal Community High School
Normal, IL

The human body series. 1988. National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C. Film/VHS video. 5 parts, 17-20 min. each. Purchase \$1,555.20/\$953.10 (purchase of individual parts possible).

The series covers the topics: muscular and skeletal systems, digestion,

reproduction, the nervous system and circulatory-respiratory systems. Each system is explored using diagrams, models, microphotographs and, in some cases, x-rays. Each is compact, but well done. In reproduction, for example, actual views are shown of ovulation and the travel of the ovum down the fallopian tube. In the digestive system, a fiber optic endoscope is used as is cinefluorography to follow food from chewing down the alimentary tract. There are views of the digestion of foods such as proteins in the stomach. In the circulatory system, capillary flow is seen along with rupture of the blood vessel and the resulting clotting action. Also, a white blood cell is followed as it searches and fights invaders in the blood.

The series is well worth viewing and is an excellent teaching tool. To aid the teacher, a guide is enclosed that gives a synopsis of the lesson, key terms, objectives, methods used in providing the various views and a list of activities that the teacher may use in class.

Weldon L. Witters
Ohio University
Athens, OH

Rachel Hays is the editor of the Audio Visual Review section of ABT. She teaches science at Heath Junior High School, in Colorado's Weld County School District #6. She holds a Ph.D. in Botany from the University of California, Davis, and has taught courses at the college level. With a B.S. from San Diego State University, Hays went on to the University of California, Davis for her M.S. degree. For several years, Hays has done research for the Natural Resources Ecology Laboratory at Fort Collins, CO, studying nutrient cycling and soil organisms. She has published articles in several popular and scientific periodicals. Her address is: 6921 Buckhorn Ct., Loveland, CO 80537.