


AV Reviews

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Department Editor

The anatomy of the fetal pig. 1990. Carolina Biological Supply Company (2700 York Rd., Burlington, NC 27215). VHS. 62 min. Purchase \$74.95, with ancillaries \$158.50.

 This representative mammal is compared to the human throughout this college, and possibly high school, level video. Perhaps my students are unusual in this time of controversy over dissection, but they are all respectful of their specimens and eager to learn from them. They are upset when they spoil a muscle by cutting too deeply or when they fail to find a structure. Still, they were pleased to see the start of this video with its explanation of the source of fetal pigs for dissection. Double injected pigs are used.

A graph of fetal pig growth goes by very quickly. Your students will probably need the video stopped so they can satisfy their curiosity about the age of their specimen. The teacher's manual does not include the graph but the data from which it was constructed is printed at the end of the narrative. Prepare your students for the external anatomy by studying positions with the names used in the video. The narrator reviews them very quickly, and all anatomical parts are referenced by position.

Internally, the skeletal system is presented first. A cat skeleton is the model of comparison here, but reference is made to the human skeleton which you can easily substitute. A pig skeleton is not displayed. Opening the

pig to reveal the muscles is shown clearly, but quickly. Here you may want to stop the video to allow your students to make one cut at a time with you as you describe it more slowly. Skinning only half of the pig should be adequate for observing the muscles. Muscles are identified in a skinned pig with arrows and names on the screen. The action, previously explained, of each muscle is mentioned. Here, as throughout the video, diagrams clarify structures.

Next, in the respiratory system, a microscopic view of the trachea is added. This enhancement continues in the digestive system with a cross section of the small intestine; in the circulatory system with heart muscle, veins and arteries; in the excretory system with kidney sections; and in the nervous system with a cross section of the spinal cord. A model of the heart will help your students follow through information presented in diagrams in the video. The nervous system is presented with a sheep brain.

The title of the video is misleading in that both cat and sheep are used for parts. It is, however, a standard way to study mammalian anatomy using the fetal pig as a model. The quality of the video and the narrative content is excellent. Simpler vocabulary for non-science words would be helpful, for example, "next to" could replace "adjacent to." The teacher's manual, included with the video, is a complete narrative script with an extensive glossary and a few review and thought questions. I have not seen the ancillary materials which include nine transparencies and review sheets and six 35mm slides. The basic set is a great addition to a series of lessons on mammalian anatomy.

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The anatomy of the crayfish. 1991. Carolina Biological Supply Company (2700 York Rd., Burlington, NC 27215). VHS. 20 min. Purchase \$49.95, with ancillaries \$83.80.



This is a fast-paced program for high school and college level students. A brief photographic survey places the crayfish with its crustacean relatives in the Arthropoda. Excellent photography makes this survey and all the dissection a pleasure to view. A highlighted diagram introduces each organ system. As the narrator names and identifies parts, their names appear on the screen. The narration is clear. Biramous, uropod, afferent and efferent are four specialized terms you might want to share before viewing; they are used but not displayed. A screen listing displays functions of the digestive gland. The narrator explains functions of other structures when she points them out, and live scenes show the operation of the structure where that is appropriate. There is no picture of molting, but a tiny crayfish, with a hand as scale, illustrates the need for this process. Serial homology of the paired appendages is described. The dissection specimen's circulatory system is injected.

I have not seen the ancillaries for this program. The basic price includes the teacher's manual. I have seen the teacher's manual for other dissection programs in this series. They include the complete narrative, a glossary of anatomical terms and a few questions without answers. The extended package includes three transparencies and review sheets in addition to five 35 mm transparencies intended for testing.

Advanced students may be able to use the video without additional instructor explanation. I find this excellent photography and clear explanation a useful bargain, but not a stand alone program for a class. It works well to show the video in short, one to eight minute segments, and then present the same information at a much slower pace while the students study their specimen and prepare whatever records you want them to make.

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