such quirks, leaving instructors (or textbooks) to fulfill that duty.

Difficult accessing and maneuvering through the web site is another unpleasantness. First, access to this web site is limited to paying subscribers. However, users are allowed access on a trial basis. Once in the program, the section where flies are crossed appears on a separate applet and can take minutes to load, especially on older computers. Also, care must be taken not to accidentally close the separate applet once it is loaded, because the link needed to re-access the applet sometimes disappears, leaving the user unable to further experiment with crosses.

These limitations notwithstanding, FlyLab is an excellent tool for teaching genetics, particularly when time, space and financial restrictions prevent breeding fruit flies in class. Also, this program's hypothetical data can supplement those data collected in classes where crosses are performed. Either way, both teachers and students may find the interactive aspects of the web site enjoyable, providing, in addition to textbooks, another angle from which to approach the sometimes-confusing field of genetics.

AV Reviews

SCIENTIFIC METHOD


This video, narrated by teenage students, is divided into three situations, each involving a problem solved by using the steps of the scientific method approach. The steps are explained both at the beginning and at the end of the video presentation as well as during each of the three situations. It should be very clear by the end of the presentation how these steps should be used and the broad nature of the approach.

The first situation deals with a young lady trying to figure out why the light burned out. The second situation follows a young man as he wonders why toast always lands jelly side down. Both situations might appeal to young students, particularly middle school students, given the simplicity of the language used and the age of the narrators. However, the acting is a bit amateurish, the narrative is somewhat repetitive, and the problem-solving approach is too simplistic for high school students.

The third situation is far more interesting and involves testing the effectiveness of a flea repellent. In this scenario the approach takes place in an actual laboratory setting. The narration in this segment includes concepts such as causal relationship, and control vs. experimental groups.

In general, this video presentation is clear and accomplishes its goal. However, its price makes it a commodity for such a short running time.

José Vázquez
General Studies Program
New York University
New York, NY 10012

ECHINODERMS, FLATWORMS & MOLLUSCS

The “Biology Of” Series (15 Titles) BioMedia Associates. P.O. Box 1234, Beaufort, SC 29901-1234. (877) 661-5355. All 15 titles available for $740.

Jeff Meier
Departments of Psychology and Biological Sciences
University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, IL 60607

José Vázquez
General Studies Program
New York University
New York, NY 10012