the mystery of vernal pools, this tape does an unbelievable job in holding the viewer's attention with superb photography.

The Biology of Seashores explores the oceans as an ecologist. It delves into how organisms are adapted to live in their environment, how they reproduce, and how they have evolved to be what they are. This tape examines the biotic and abiotic factors of ocean survival, as well as the different salt water areas of the rocky shore, the sandy beach, and mudflats and estuaries. This tape was superior and would be an excellent introduction to a marine biology course.

The Light Microscope is a collection of computer-generated graphics and live pictures that show how to use a microscope. After a brief explanation of the history of the invention, this tape goes on to discuss the discovery scope and then the compound light microscope. It explains, in detail, how to adjust the focus, calculate the magnification, and modify the iris diaphragm. It shows how to increase contrast and use oil immersion lenses. This tape finishes with a music video with scenes of different freshwater and marine microorganisms. Emphasizing that light is the key to good viewing, this tape would be an excellent introduction to any biology class needing to have a "window on the microcosm."

This series of videotapes provides a wide variety of topics that would enhance any biology course. While the price is a bit costly for the set, each tape alone could be purchased on an "as needed" basis over time.

For a review of three other tapes in this series, see the August 2001 review by Vázquez.

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Web Site Review

HUMAN EVOLUTION & PALEOANTHROPOLOGY

Becoming Human. (2001). Institute of Human Origins, Arizona State University, CLAS. PO Box 874101, Tempe, AZ 85287-4101; web: www.becominghuman.org.

This web site on human evolution recently launched *The Learning Center* – a series of interactive activities and lesson plans recommended for grades 6 through 12 but which can easily be adapted for other levels as well. The site features three first-rate exercises, thus providing one of the most stimulating activities in evolution ever produced.

The first exercise, *Chromosome Connections,* allows students to match up chromosomes to determine which primate is our closest living relative. Students have to drag different chromosomes to match the human counterparts displayed on the screen. In addition to providing a great recognition exercise, students can familiarize themselves with chromosome anatomy. In *Building Bodies,* bones are mixed up and the student needs to find the right fit as they build up a skeleton. This exercise provides an explanation as the bones are being connected. It requires great visual accuracy and puzzle-solving skills. The last exercise, *Calculating Cousins,* allows students to build a phylogenetic tree. A brief history of the hominid family tree is given as the student completes the activity.

Lesson plans can be downloaded and they include a background information section, an activity packet, a page of cutouts, and a comprehensive list of references. Each lesson plan indicates the position within the curriculum where the activity can be included. The exercises are very thorough in their scope and I only regret that they only have three activities available.

But there is more. The site also includes *Becoming Human: The Documentary* which has the following system requirements:

- Macromedia Flash Player
- High Speed Connection
- 64 MB Ram.

The documentary is divided into the following sections: Prologue, Evidence, Anatomy, Lineages, and Culture. Each section can be viewed separately. The narration is done by Dr. Donald Johanson, the famous scientist who discovered Lucy – the benchmark fossil of paleoanthropology. In addition, some prominent scientists are interviewed such as Ian Tattersall, the renowned curator in anthropology at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. Given its interdisciplinary approach, this documentary is easily applicable to an anthropology unit.

Additional features include "News and Views" which provides a comprehensive list of references, a subscription link to receive periodic updates, and additional links to related topics. For those educators who want to engage their students in the fascinating topic of evolution, this is the place to begin the adventure and the excitement that the study of human evolution can bring to a life science curriculum.

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