

JOSÉ VÁZQUEZ, DEPARTMENT EDITOR

AV & Software Reviews

MITOSIS & MEIOSIS

Mitosis and Meiosis Demystified. (2004). CD-ROM. Produced by SimBiotic Software for Teaching and Research, Inc. For pricing and ordering information, visit <http://www.simbiocom>. Custom packets and discounted packets available.

Reviewer's Note: This CD-ROM was viewed on a Macintosh PowerPC G4 500 mhz, 640 mb RAM, 24X CD-ROM drive, running Mac OS X.2.8.

The first thing I noticed when SimBiotic Software's **Mitosis and Meiosis Demystified** CD-ROM was launched was that I had to open Mac OS 9 (classic mode). The machine this title was viewed on happened to have OS 9 on it, so it booted right away. However, Macintoshes purchased after June, 2003 are no longer sold with this version of the operating system, and therefore this software would not work on any modern Macintosh. SimBiotic Software is well advised to make all of its software OS X native if

they wish schools and students to purchase it.

Once past the operating system issue, the CD-ROM was engaging and informative. There are two different applications on the disk, **Mitosis Demystified** and **Meiosis Demystified**. Each one describes in extensive, but not overwhelming, detail the processes of mitosis and meiosis. The lessons are self-directed, and are enhanced with several interactive options, such as clicking and dragging photos of each mitotic step to put them in the correct order, and watching short videos showing the continuous cell cycle.

One feature that I found to be quite useful was in **Meiosis Demystified**. After the process of meiosis was discussed, a button allowed the user to compare the steps with those of mitosis. This will be especially helpful to students who always seem to get these steps confused.

At the end of the lesson, there is a self test that students can use to check for understanding. The program gives the students immediate feedback as to the correctness of an answer and then tallies the total correct at the end. If they got the question wrong, it will guide them back to the area of the lesson where that topic was discussed. **Mitosis and Meiosis Demystified** would be appropriate for high school biology classes, or anyone looking to brush up on these concepts.

Jeff Sack
Valley Regional High School
Deep River, CT 06412
jsack@vrhs.com

JOSÉ VÁZQUEZ teaches science in the General Studies Program at New York University. He has been teaching for about 20 years and has taught every level from elementary to graduate school. His particular interests are genetics/cell biology and parasitology. José is also a member of the Test Development Committee for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (The Nation's Report Card). His address is: General Studies Program-NYU, 726 Broadway Ave., New York, NY 10003; e-mail: jrv2@nyu.edu.