

# Reviews

## Books

- 112 **Key stage 3 revision guides: KS3 science total revision**, Richardson and Goldsmith; **Do brilliantly: KS3 science**, Goldsmith
- 112 **GCSE revision guides: GCSE science total revision**, Sunley and Smith; **GCSE science instant revision**, Sunley and Smith; **Do brilliantly: GCSE science**, Bibby, Hills and Smith
- 113 **Targeted learning: using classroom assessment for learning (AKSIS)**, Goldsworthy, Watson and Wood-Robinson
- 113 **Science is like a tub of ice cream – cool and fun!**, ed. Feasey
- 113 **Biotech: a biotechnological resource pack for schools and colleges**, ABPI
- 113 **The essentials of genetics**, Jones, Karp and Giddings
- 114 **Environmental biology**, Chapman and Reiss
- 114 **Rocks and minerals**, Jones
- 114 **Loch Lomondside**, Mitchell
- 114 **Wildlife of the Galapagos**, Fitter, Fitter and Hosking
- 115 **Coral fish**, Pitkin
- 115 **Search for life**, Grady
- 115 **Advanced chemistry for you**, Ryan
- 115 **Do brilliantly: AS chemistry**, Facer
- 115 **Chemistry 1**, Ratcliff, Eccles, Johnson, Nicholson and Raffan
- 116 **Environmental chemistry**, Winfield
- 116 **Universal foam: the story of bubbles from cappuccino to the cosmos**, Perkowitz
- 116 **Gadgets and necessities**, Webb and Suggitt
- 116 **Inventing the twentieth century**, van Dulken
- 116 **The Little Guides: Space**, O'Byrne
- 117 **Scientific American: How things work today**, ed. Wright and Patel
- 117 **Heinemann Groundbreakers: Dian Fossey**, Wood and Wood; **Galileo**, Mason; **Alexander Fleming**, Parker; **Florence Nightingale**, Malam; **Isaac Newton**, Allan; **Edwin Hubble**, Macdonald
- 117 **Learning today with tomorrow in mind**, Development Education Centre
- 117 **Issues in science teaching**, ed. Sears and Sorensen

re-compilation. It compares very favourably with its predecessor; as well as being up to date (at least to

1998!) it is set out in clearer type, contains many more pages and there are numerous cross-references. At

this price, I think there should be one in each lab for reference by pupils from years 7 to 13.

*John Miller*

## Videos

### ■ The delights of chemistry

59-minute video and 92 pp. teacher's notes

From Sally Popplewell, Media Services – Television, The University of Leeds, Woodhouse Lane, Leeds LS2 9JT. £30.00 (ex. VAT) + £1.50 p&p

This video from the University of Leeds is a record of a demonstration lecture given before 280 pre-GCSE pupils. More than 40 chemical demonstrations are shown in 59 minutes. Some experiments are quite rushed and their purpose not totally explained. The audience noise can be a distraction and one of the lecturers is difficult to understand fully. However, showing snippets without sound at various points in an A-level course might be useful, for example, to show the blue colour of liquid oxygen, the thermit reaction, etc. The teacher notes give full details about each experiment as well as safety considerations. Overall, though, I'm not sure just what purpose this video might serve in a chemistry video collection apart from serving as a record of the lecture.

*David Moore*

### ■ Scientific Eye: Life and living processes 3

Programmes included:

#### **Habitat and population**

#### **Green plants**

#### **Energy for life**

#### **Diet and nutrition**

#### **Microbes and health**

5 x 20-minute programmes (code 281024), plus free on-line supporting resources on the web at [www.4learning.co.uk/secondary](http://www.4learning.co.uk/secondary) 4Learning, PO Box 100, Warwick, CV34 6TZ (tel: 01926 436444). £19.99

There are five programmes in this very fast-paced series, packed with useful stimulus material that is focused on aspects of 'Life and living processes'. The programmes stand alone, each dealing with separate, fairly broad areas of the key stage 3 curriculum. They could be used to good effect in a variety of ways.

This is an excellent series which succeeds in communicating the relevance of a number of biological principles by demonstrating them through a range of familiar, and at times unusual, everyday contexts. The 20-minute programmes are lively and highly varied, combining a wide range of living examples, laboratory demonstration, excellent animation, case study, interviews and entertaining cartoon clips. The series conforms to an overall format but individual programmes have different styles. Presenters are generally energetic and clear, though

the wheeled-in experts at times seem rather camera shy! The overall results have great visual appeal.

Each programme focus is introduced through its application and significance, using examples that have been carefully selected to engage the target audience. In **Green plants** the Eden Project in Cornwall is used to show plants as an important source of raw materials, fuel and food, and the commercial production of chives provides an excellent vehicle through which to demonstrate the relevance of limiting factors in photosynthesis. In **Energy for life** the chosen introductory context is the rather wacky training of Susan Denham-Smith in preparation for her trek across Antarctica, whilst **Habitat and population** begins unusually by looking at how to design a successful zoo environment for various endangered species. The choice of a wide range of contexts is a brilliant device, allowing the programme-makers to include a mass of stimulating, visually attractive and engaging footage.

The programmes then go on to explore the biology involved. There is good use of illustrative examples and some excellent animated sequences. **Energy for life** includes gas exchange and the subsequent transport of oxygen for cell respiration, whilst **Green plants** animates the absorption and transport of materials for photosynthesis beautifully, though very rapidly. What a change to see the chemistry of photosynthesis explained so