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## Exemplary Inclusion Lessons

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**Exemplary Inclusion Lessons**

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**Exemplary Inclusion Lessons**

**Abstract**

The Great Ocean Rescue is an outstanding computer application for students of many ages and abilities. The authors have used The Great Ocean Rescue for several years with students from grades 2 through college. The Great Ocean Rescue is an outstanding software application for teaching about a variety of environmental and social issues.

In addition to the software options, the kit offers a teacher's guide and 28 student map resource booklets(seven sets of four), lesson plans, activities, and blackline masters. The CD-ROM version

includes one set of students references. All versions contain a library of over 85 short movies and stills. All activities are correlated with lesson plans and a comprehensive teacher's guide.

Groups of four are suggested, but group size might vary. It is the collaborative learning aspect of The Great Ocean Rescue that suggest that these curriculum material are so valuable for the inclusion classroom. The authors recommend that care be taken in assigning students to group work. In addition to academic ability, be certain to balance teams on the basis of ethnicity, race, and gender. Thus it is the structuring of the student groups that is key to successful teaching. Many inclusion teachers have developed very good strategies for placing students in work teams. The authors strongly maintain that teamwork is central to good inclusive education.

### **Introduction**

The authors have been proponents of inclusive education for years. This journal will publish many articles on both the theory and practice of Inclusion. Our focus will be on appropriate curriculum materials to use in the inclusion classroom. Since this is an electronic journal, it is highly appropriate to discuss the use of multimedia as a successful strategy for the inclusion classroom.

The authors have a good deal of experience in using CD-ROMs in classroom instruction. While this format does not replace online applications, it does provide the inclusion educator with a highly interactive learning format. Helms (1996) has previously discussed some advantages of incorporating technology instruction into the classroom. The authors would encourage online review of their web pages at <http://www.ed.wright.edu/cehs/helms.htm> and at <http://www.ed.wright.edu/cehs/stoll/cfstoll.htm> (Helms, 1997). Risinger(1996) and Bracey(1995) offer a rationale for incorporating technology into the curriculum. Helms and Finegan(1998) provide some specific examples of web resources for educators.

The purpose of this article is to focus specifically on The Great Ocean Rescue as a teaching tool for the Inclusionary classroom. This CD-ROM is for both IBM/Mac platforms. The Great Ocean Rescue is also available in laser disc format; the laser disk format includes computer software to assist the teacher in managing decision-making thinking of the students. Tom Snyder productions is the source of The Great Ocean Rescue (Tom Snyder Productions, 80 Coolidge Hill Road, Watertown, Ma 02172-2817). Several package options are available: CD-ROM for either Mac or Windows cost is \$99.95; a five computer pack will cost \$249.95; a ten computer pack sells for \$399.95; and a twenty computer pack will cost \$799.95. The Video disk pack is available for \$599.95. The authors have used both formats and find no significant difference in student learning and enthusiasm.

### **The Great Ocean Rescue: Software**

The Great Ocean Rescue is an outstanding computer application for students of many ages and abilities. The authors have used The Great Ocean Rescue for several years with students in grades 2 through college. The Great Ocean Rescue is an outstanding application for teaching about a variety of environmental and social issues.

In addition to the software options, the kit offers, a teacher's guide, and 28 student map resource booklets (seven sets of four), teacher's guide, lesson plans, activities, and blackline masters. The CD-ROM version includes one set of students references. All versions contain a library of over 85 short movies and stills. All activities are correlated with lesson plans and a comprehensive teacher's guide.

## **Teaching Strategies**

Groups of four are suggested, but group size might vary. It is the collaborative learning aspect of The Great Ocean Rescue that makes these curriculum materials so valuable for the Inclusionary classroom. The authors recommend that care be taken in assigning students to group work. In addition to academic ability, be certain to balance teams on the basis of ethnicity, race, and gender.

Thus it is the structuring of the student groups that is key to successful teaching. Many inclusion teachers have developed effective strategies for placing students in work teams. The authors strongly maintain that teamwork is central to good inclusive education.

## **Materials**

Student booklets centers on four missions: The Fishin' Mission, The case of the Pollution Pirates, Grief on the Reef, and the Leaky Bottom Mission. These missions include learning about coral reefs, deep sea vents, ocean pollution, and marine biodiversity. Clearly this learning material is interdisciplinary in nature. Social studies, language arts, science, and math skills are all necessary in the presentation of these lessons.

The four missions may require a week of instructional time. The library of over 85 short movies and stills and additional lessons are optional, but may require two more week of instructional time.

The four missions: The Fishin' Mission, The case of the Pollution Pirates, Grief on the Reef, and the Leaky Bottom Mission all require teamwork in determining a solution. The Fishin' Mission focuses on habitats for living. The oceans provide a variety of habitats which vary according to depth and sea floor characteristics. The case of the Pollution Pirates examines the many types of pollution which flow into the world's oceans. Grief on the Reef focuses on the concept of Deforestation and the resulting devastation of coral reefs. The Leaky Bottom Mission investigates and argues that life is chemosynthesis rather than photosynthesis. Mission exploration occurs at the Georges Bank, the Red sea, Okinawa, and the Juan de Fuca Ridge. In order to determine these locations, students will need to analyze a variety of geographical data. Supplemental lessons include topological maps, relief global views, plate tectonics, crusted plates, oceans and climates, estuaries, polar ice, food web, sea life, coral, animal life, and research.

## **Skills**

The Great Ocean Rescue is designed to address the following skills: analyzing graphic, numerical, and textual information, interpreting visual information, making hypotheses, testing hypotheses, validating theories, identifying cause and effect relationships, weighting alternatives, listening and communicating with others, decision-making, sharing obligations, supporting one's ideas, collaborating, and making judgments and drawing conclusions.

## **Roles**

In each mission students are assigned the role of environmental scientist, geologist, marine biologist, and oceanographer, While some information is common to all, role playing provides specific information to each student. The successful teams will be those teams which can analyze, synthesize, and evaluate.

The authors have used this electronic simulation in grades 2 --12 with great student enthusiasm. We have used The Great Ocean Rescue in our undergraduate and graduate teacher education programs. We have used The Great Ocean Rescue at many professional conferences. One classroom teacher from Utah

summarizes our own experience: "one of the best-designed products I have ever used in the educational market. Gets kids up, thinking, and lights their fire for learning."

The use of CD-ROMs and laser discs offer a user friendly environment for both teacher and student. There may be a required initial investment of time in learning the software programs, but this investment will pay huge dividends in the quality of instruction.

### Summary

The authors recommend the video disk of The Great Ocean Rescue for the inclusion teacher. This version provides maximum control of teaching resources while monitoring classroom learning. However, the CD-ROM version is wonderful for traveling teachers and professionals who use laptops and LCD units at conference presentations (Rizzo, 1996). A laptop and LCD is very manageable in airline travel. A laser disk player does not travel well. While some professional organizations are providing demonstration technology rooms, other professional organizations are offering commercial rental opportunities which may exceed \$300.00 per day. The authors have used both versions of The Great Ocean Rescue. We prefer the laser disk version, but continue to use the CD-ROM version at national conferences.

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