PULL-OUT SECTION

SCIENCE TEACHERS GRAB BAG

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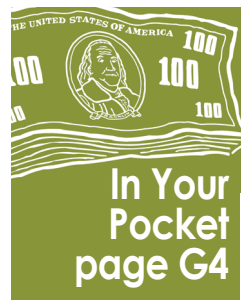
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Freebies for Science Teachers

January 2011 Science Objects collection from the NSTA Learning Center. Science Objects are two-hour online interactive inquiry-based content modules that help teachers better understand the science content they teach. This month's collection includes Energy: Energy Transformations; Resources and Human Impact: Earth as a System; and Resources and Human Impact: Environmental Degradation. Access the collection at *http://bit.ly/gFCBf8*.

Hurricanes: Science and Society. This comprehensive website from The University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography *(www.hurricanescience.org)* offers information about the science of hurricanes and how to lessen their impacts. In addition to in-depth, peer-reviewed science content, it includes case studies and a historical storm interactive. Information is tailored to middle school through undergraduate educators and students, the general public, and the media.

Population and consumption activities. Worldof7Billion.org, a new website for middle and high school students from the Population Connection *(www.worldof7billion.org)*, presents dozens of population-related activities for classroom and schoolwide use. For example, in Population Circle, middle school students explore population dynamics, while in One for All, they learn about resource consumption strategies. Students in grades 9–12 can participate in a video contest to create a 30-second public service announcement illustrating the impacts of a growing population; the contest deadline is **March 1**.

PopTech Fellows. PopTech is an organization that highlights the achievements of leaders and doers from different disciplines who are working on new ways to solve various world challenges. Each year, PopTech selects Fellows involved in social innovation or science projects and provides them with visibility and support to increase the impact of their projects. Videos describing the 2010 Fellows and their projects are available at *http://bit.ly/a9zXMj* (social innovation) and *http://bit.ly/9kHBFa* (science) and would be appropriate to share with middle level and high school students. Among the approximately 30 Fellows highlighted are Brooke Bettes Farrell, founder of RecycleMatch, a company that connects those who have waste with those who need it—lowering costs, reducing waste, and accelerating green innovation. Another is Ben Dubin-Thaler (science), a biologist who drives the BioBus, a yellow school bus remodeled as a high-tech mobile science lab to get kids interested in science.

***Fringe* and the Science Olympiad.** FoxTV and Science Olympiad have collaborated on lesson plans for students in grades 9–12 that mix the science of the television series *Fringe* with Science Olympiad events. The lessons *(http://soinc.org/fringe)* can be incorporated as special projects tied to curriculum or as Friday brain teasers. Each lesson includes learning objectives, online resources, a hands-on activity, extensions, relevant episode scenes, and alignment to national science standards. Topics addressed include communicable diseases, information encoding, and fossilization.

Plant an Idea, Plant a Tree. This environmental education training manual from the Armenia Tree Project (ATP) emphasizes the importance of protecting forests and the environment while highlighting Armenia's landscape and ecological and cultural heritage. The curriculum contains three learning modules, one each for elementary, middle, and high school levels. In addition, *Building Bridges* is a colorful newsletter for children ages 6–12 that describes various ATP initiatives and features environmental education games, puzzles, and facts. Access both at *http://bit.ly/i2MNcH*.

DooF: Nutrition education materials. DooF ("food" spelled backward) is a fast-paced television series that teaches students ages 6–11 about where food comes from and interests them in good food not only because it's healthy, but also because it's cool. The accompanying website *(www.foodbackwards.com)* offers recipes, food-related videos and stories (e.g., three kids visit a California farmer's market to learn about citrus fruits), a blog, and food-literacy curriculum materials.

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