

CLIMATE CHANGE COLLECTION SCORECARD

Date: 4/20/05

Reviewer: Kirsten Butcher

Name of resource: "Carbo" the Carbon Atom

Sponsoring Organization: Center for Learning Technologies in Urban Schools

URL: <http://www.letus.nwu.edu/projects/gw/cycles/carbo/index.html>

Site Homepage: <http://www.letus.nwu.edu/projects/gw/cycles/carbo/index.html>

RESOURCE WITHIN A SITE? Y / N

FOUND THROUGH DLESE? Y / N

IF SO, WHICH COLLECTIONS?

RECOMMENDATION YES YES WITH RESERVATIONS NO

STARS 1 2 3 4 5 (LAME TO STELLAR)

NARRATIVE (USE OTHER SIDE IF NEEDED)

The site is a fun activity for intermediate level students (middle school) to help them understand the complexities of the carbon cycle in an accessible format. The site allows students to choose the path that a carbon atom takes through the carbon cycle – this sounds like a dry activity but it is actually nicely presented and offers interesting paths for "Carbo" that the students probably will find quite entertaining (e.g., expelled by a volcano, eaten by a cow, trapped in a soda, burped up by human ...). It might have been nice to have some links to more rigorous information on the carbon cycle and/or background information; beginning learners may need explicit links to really apply their experiences in the activity to conceptual knowledge about the carbon cycle. In addition, there are some confusing aspects of the activity (e.g., how can Carbo be broken down as a carbohydrate? How is Carbo converted into methane?). However, overall this is a nice stand-alone activity that students will enjoy.

INTENDED USE

REFERENCE

COMPUTER ACTIVITY

NON-COMPUTER ACTIVITY

EDUCATOR, LEARNER OR BOTH (CIRCLE) IF FOR LEARNER, EVIDENCE ITS BEEN TESTED? Y / N

BEGINNER OR ADVANCED (CIRCLE)

Easily Printed? Y / N

BUGS & TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES (PROBLEMATIC TO ROBUST)

1 2 3 4

COMMENTS – No problems were encountered.

SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY- FACTUAL ERRORS/OMISSIONS (NATIONAL ENQUIRER TO NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC)

1 2 3 4

EVIDENCE IT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY? Y / N

COMMENTS – The site could be improved by providing links to more in-depth science info. But it is a nice exploration of the carbon cycle that will actually be fun for students.

PEDAGOGICAL INFORMATION

REFERENCE ONLY

TEACHER GUIDE

MATERIALS LIST

ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES

TIMEFRAME PROVIDED

STANDARDS ALIGNMENT INDICATED

PROMOTES STUDENT LEARNING (WEAK TO STRONG)

1 2 3 4

COMMENTS – This activity should be engaging to students and may provide a concrete introduction to the carbon cycle. The activity could be incorporated as an effective learning tool within a lesson on the carbon cycle.

APPROPRIATE/EFFECTIVE MULTIMEDIA DESIGN (WEAK TO STRONG)

1 2 3 4

COMMENTS – The site contains few multimedia characteristics – hypertext links comprise the activity and there are a

few visual images for interest. But the interactive nature of the activity is useful and engaging.

VISUAL APPEAL (WEAK TO STRONG)

1 2 3 4

COMMENTS – The web pages are not especially visually appealing, but I doubt this will be a problem because students are likely to be engaged with the text in a “Choose Your Own Adventure” style of interaction.

TEACHING TIPS: ANNOTATION DESCRIBING HOW SITE COULD BE USED OR ADAPTED FOR CLASSROOM

Educators will probably need to make explicit connections to the carbon cycle and global warming, but the activity is a fun, interactive, and concrete introduction to the complexities of the carbon cycle.

RECOMMENDATION: ANNOTATION DESCRIBING HOW THE DEVELOPER COULD IMPROVE THE SITE.

Revised 12/3/04