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ABSTRACT

This guide lists 21 software packages considered to be worthy of further consideration by other reviewing agencies and schools by a group of 12 computer coordinators from educational software preview centers and evaluation agencies. These software products have been selected as not being likely to appear in the reviews produced by major software evaluation agencies. Included are reviews of courseware for applications in biology, civics, geography, geology, history, language arts, mathematics, music, physics, problem solving, and writing. The types of programs include simulations, use of computer tools (e.g., Hyperscreen), word processing, tutorials, databases, and games. In addition to a brief description of the software package, each entry includes information on: (1) the publisher; (2) the suggested grade level(s); (3) topics addressed; (4) hardware requirements; and (5) price. A list of software producers' addresses and telephone numbers is also provided. (GL)

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THE Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory

# TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

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## NEW AND PROMISING: Software Worth A Look

A MicroSIFT Survey of  
Educational Software Preview Center Coordinators

Volume II, No. 1

Zita Podany

March 1990

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In February 1990, a group of twelve computer coordinators from large educational software preview centers and evaluation agencies were asked to identify new products they have seen which, in their professional opinion, are worthy of further consideration by other reviewing agencies and schools. The purpose of this poll is to highlight new titles which are not likely to appear in the reviews from major software evaluation agencies. The following list represents the results of this poll.

**Audubon Wildlife Adventures: Whales**

**Publisher:** Advanced Ideas

**Price:** \$49.95; school edition, \$59.95

**Grades:** 4-12

**Topics:** Life Science, Biology, Science, Simulation

**Hardware Requirements:** Apple II e, c, 128K; Apple IIGS 512K; IBM PC family 256K; IBM PS2 512K, CGA required.

**Brief Description:** Four interactive stories introduce students to a number of conservation issues. Students learn about the habits of different types of whales and how humans continue to affect them. Includes a whale conservation booklet with many supplemental activities.

**CD Companion Series: Ludwig von Beethoven, Symphony No. 9**

**Publisher:** The Voyager Company

**Price:** \$99.95

**Grades:** 7-14

**Topics:** Fine Arts, Music, CD-ROM

**Hardware Requirements:** Macintosh Plus or higher with hard disk; CD-ROM Player

**Brief Description:** First volume in the CD Companion Series. Explores Beethoven's Ninth Symphony using text, audio, and graphics examples taken from the included CD. Package includes a five-part HyperCard program and a compact-disk recording of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

**Creature Cube**

**Publisher:** Sunburst Communications

**Price:** \$65.00

**Grades:** 7-12

**Topics:** Game, Problem Solving, Logic

**Hardware Requirements:** Apple II family, 64K

**Brief Description:** Students try to find a creature hidden within a three-dimensional cube comprised of many blocks, each of which can be opened. As students remove layers from the cube, hints are provided as to the creature's whereabouts. Lab packs are available.

**GTV: A Geographic Perspective on American History**

**Publisher:** National Geographic Society

**Price:** \$650.00

**Grades:** 5-12

**Topics:** Files, Videodisc, Tutorials, Social Studies, History, Geography

**Hardware Requirements:** Apple IIGS, 512K, ROM version 1.0, two 3.5" disk drives; Macintosh with a hard drive and HyperCard; mouse; Pioneer 4200 videodisc or equivalent; TV monitor; printer (optional).

**Brief Description:** This program, consisting of video segments interspersed with computer graphics, text and maps, provides a comprehensive look at American History from a geographical perspective. GTV videodiscs can be used with or without the accompanying software. With the program's editing capabilities, students may create their own presentations. Includes two videodiscs, software diskettes, teacher's guide, a U.S. physical map, a timeline chart, cable for computer and videodisc hook-up, and library cards.

### **Hyperscreen**

**Publisher:** Scholastic, Inc.

**Price:** \$99.95

**Grades:** 7-14

**Topics:** Tool, Presentation

**Hardware Requirements:** Apple II e, c, GS, 128K

**Brief Description:** A multimedia presentation tool allowing students and teachers to create interactive presentations, reports, and lessons using the program's built-in fonts, clip art, and drawing tools. Users can link screens together in various ways to produce special types of actions. Segments or frames from videodiscs can also be incorporated into projects. Compatible with the Apple II Video Overlay Card. Lab packs and network versions are available.

### **Interactive Nova: Animal Pathfinders**

**Publisher:** Scholastic

**Price:** \$395.00

**Grades:** 5-10

**Topics:** Science, Life Sciences, Biology, Videodisc

**Hardware Requirements:** Mac Plus, SE, II, with 20MB or larger hard drive, interactive videodisc player, color video monitor, RS-232 cable.

**Brief Description:** An interactive multimedia program designed to help students understand animal behavior and migration patterns. With the use of HyperCard, students and teachers can manipulate the presentation of material on the videodiscs. The database linked to related video sequences, contains over 600 cards describing animals, their habits and behaviors. A Report Maker feature allows users to create their own documentaries. Students can further be challenged as they assume the role of investigative reporters to solve animal mysteries in the Activities section of the program. Package includes videodiscs, program disks, a teacher and user's guide, information sheet, and an icon reference chart. Produced by WGBH and Peace River Films. Based on the NOVA documentary, "The Mystery of Animal Pathfinders."

### **Interactive Physics**

**Publisher:** Knowledge Revolution

**Price:** \$249.00

**Grades:** 10-16

**Topics:** Science, Physical Science, Physics, Simulation, Problem Solving

**Hardware Requirements:** Macintosh Plus with 1MB of RAM, SE, SE/30, II, IIX, IICX, IICI, Portable; two disk drives or one disk drive with a hard drive; system software 6.0.2 or later.

**Brief Description:** A physics simulation of the fundamental principles in Newtonian Mechanics enabling students to experiment with properties of motion. Students can design their own experiments by drawing objects on the screen. Results can be analyzed numerically, graphically, or with vectors. Lab packs are available.

### **Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**Publisher:** Optical Data

**Price:** \$395.00

**Grades:** 9-16

**Topics:** Files, Database, Videodisc, Social Studies, History, Special Education, Bilingual

**Hardware Requirements:** Macintosh, HyperCard, laserdisc player, CAV format

**Brief Description:** A videodisc narrated by Ted Koppel presenting the issues and events which shaped the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. With HyperCard, users can navigate through the vast array of information, graphics, and sound stored on the videodisc. The Documentary Maker feature allows teachers and students to create their own custom presentation of movie clips either for manual or automatic playback. Closed captioned for the hearing impaired. Second sound track is in Spanish.

**Math Football: Rounding**

**Publisher:** Gamco Industries, Inc.

**Price:** \$44.95 without backup; \$54.95 with backup

**Grades:** 3-12

**Topics:** Math, Arithmetic, Drill, Game

**Hardware Requirements:** Apple II plus, e, c, 64K; Commodore 64, 128K; IBM PC 256K; TRS-80 models III and IV, 48K; Color graphics card (CGA) required for IBM.

**Brief Description:** This program, part of a math series, combines football action with rounding drills. Players have a choice of four playing levels, ranging from rounding whole numbers to tens, hundreds, thousands, to rounding larger whole numbers and decimals. The student management system automatically tracks student progress. Lab packs and a network version are available.

**McGee**

**Publisher:** Lawrence Productions, Inc.

**Price:** \$39.95

**Grades:** 0-1

**Topics:** Readiness, Language Arts

**Hardware Requirements:** Apple IIGS 512K; Macintosh 512K, SE, II; Amiga 512K, IBM; Tandy; mouse

**Brief Description:** A preschool program, containing no words, enables the user to become familiar with the computer. By simply clicking the mouse and making a selection, children guide McGee through a series of animated, early-morning adventures around the house.

**Minerals Database**

**Publisher:** Sunburst Communications

**Price:** \$59.00

**Grades:** 6-12

**Topics:** Database, Science, Earth Science, Geology, Files

**Hardware Requirements:** Apple II family 64K, 128K; Commodore 64.

**Brief Description:** Students explore and identify the characteristics of minerals. Some activities are designed to encourage students to experiment and create away from the computer. Designed to work with Bank Street School Filer. Lab packs are available.

**The New Printshop Companion**

**Publisher:** Broderbund

**Price:** Apple \$49.95; IBM PC \$59.95

**Grades:** 0-12

**Topics:** Graphics, Language Arts, Page layout

**Hardware Requirements:** Apple II e, c; IBM PC / Tandy

**Brief Description:** The Printshop Companion has been redesigned to include more design options. With the Page Publisher feature users can combine text and graphics to create flyers and newsletters. Other options include an Envelope Maker, Graphic.Font, and Border editors with full paint capabilities, and several utilities enabling the cataloging or importation of graphics. Lab packs are available.

**Point of View (Macintosh Version)**

**Publisher:** Scholastic

**Price:** \$199.95

**Grades:** 6-12

**Topics:** History, Social Studies, Tool

**Hardware Requirements:** Macintosh SE, II, with at least 1 MB of RAM

**Brief Description:** An overview of U.S. history. A computer presentation and research tool enabling the study and interpretation of historical data in relation to various factors. Students and teachers can create presentations integrating graphics, text, charts, and sounds. Can also be linked to a videodisc to incorporate video clips into projects. A teacher's guide is included. MS-DOS version will be available in 1991.

**Project Classify: Mammals**

**Publisher:** National Geographic Society

**Price:** \$139.95

**Grades:** 4 - 8

**Topics:** Simulation, Science, Life Science, Biology

**Hardware Requirements:** Apple II e, c, GS, 128K; color monitor is recommended  
**Brief Description:** Students gain an understanding of the processes utilized by scientists in identifying and classifying animals. Enhances critical reading and observation skills as students learn to use an identification key in their quest to locate mystery animals. Kit includes two disks, student booklets, a teacher's guide, reproducible activity sheets, and a sound filmstrip.

**SimCity: The City Simulator**

**Publisher:** Maxis

**Price:** \$49.95; Mac II/IICx \$79.95;  
Commodore 64 \$29.95.

**Grades:** 8-12

**Topics:** Civics, Game, Social Studies, Simulation

**Hardware Requirements:** Macintosh 512e, SE, II, IICx; Commodore 64, 128K; IBM PC; Tandy 1000; Amiga 512

**Brief Description:** A city management simulation allowing students to understand and appreciate the complexities and social problems involved in running a city—everything from managing the municipal budget to dealing with crime, pollution, and other unexpected problems. Students can design their own city or manage one of seven well-known cities around the world. Lab packs are available.

**Story Starters: Social Studies**

**Publisher:** Pelican Software

**Price:** \$49.95

**Grades:** 2-6

**Topics:** Language Arts, Writing, Files, Social Studies, History

**Hardware Requirements:** Apple II family, 128K; Echo speech synthesizer is optional.

**Brief Description:** Part of a creative writing series designed to stimulate writing across the curriculum. Students can incorporate colorful backgrounds and graphics to enhance their stories depicting real or fictitious events in history. Lab packs are available.

**Superprint II: The Next Generation**

**Publisher:** Scholastic

**Price:** \$69.95

**Grades:** 6-14

**Topics:** Tool, Graphics

**Hardware Requirements:** Apple II e, c, GS, 128K; IBM PC and compatibles with color graphics card, 256K; printer

**Brief Description:** Program enables teachers and students to create cards, posters, banners, borders, and calendars as large as six feet tall. Users can place text and graphics wherever they desire. Contains a large graphics library, four typestyles. Creations can be printed in black and white or color. A network version is available.

**Super Story Tree**

**Publisher:** Scholastic

**Price:** \$79.95

**Grades:** 6-12

**Topics:** Tool, Word Processing, Graphics, Writing, Language Arts

**Hardware Requirements:** Apple II family, 128K; IBM 256K

**Brief Description:** Students can design and create branching interactive stories integrating text, sound effects, music, graphics, and student-generated art. Page linking features enable the writer to design plot twists for maximum reader interest and interaction. Other features include drawing tools, a library of graphics and digitized sounds, musics and sound effects, fonts in a variety of sizes and styles, and special effects page transitions to create scene changes and interludes.

### UltraKey

**Publisher:** Bytes

**Price:** Apple \$89.00; Macintosh \$99.00

**Grades:** 3-14

**Topics:** Tutorial, Keyboarding

**Hardware Requirements:** Apple II plus, e, c, GS, 64K; Mac 512K or better. Software is network aware, thereby it can be used on any network.

**Brief Description:** Keyboarding tutorial emphasizing good posture, proper fingering technique, and correct hand positions. Program identifies errors, patterns, and provides suggestions for improvement. Automatic recordkeeping keeps track of student progress. A free evaluation disk can be requested. Site licensing is available: \$325 for the Apple; \$360 for the Macintosh.

### What Do You Do With A Broken Calculator?

**Publisher:** Sunburst Communications

**Price:** \$65.00

**Grades:** 2-14

**Topics:** Logic, Arithmetic, Problem Solving, Math

**Hardware Requirements:** Apple II family, 64K; IBM PC/PC jr, 128K; IBM PS2, 256K; Tandy 1000, 256K

**Brief Description:** With some of the calculator keys disabled, students must find the order of operations which will produce the target number. Students can review the steps used after the problem is solved. Lab Packs are available.

### Where In Time Is Carmen Sandiego?

**Publisher:** Broderbund

**Price:** \$54.95

**Grades:** 7-12

**Topics:** History, Social Studies, Database, Game

**Hardware Requirements:** IBM PC; Apple II family

**Brief Description:** Carmen and her gang of fifteen are at it again. This time they're using a time machine to travel to hideouts from the Middle Ages to the Modern Age. As they search for criminals, traveling to the time and scene of the crime questioning witnesses and analyzing clues, players gain knowledge about the people, events, and inventions that have shaped the world from 400 A.D. to the 1950s: Includes *The New American Encyclopedia* reference book.



## PRODUCER CONTRACT INFORMATION

### **Advanced Ideas**

2902 San Pablo Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94702  
415/526-9100

### **Broderbund**

P.O. Box 12947  
San Rafael, CA 94913  
800/521-6263

### **Bytes**

150 Consumers Rd., Suite 202  
Willowdale, Ontario M2J 1P9  
416/495-9913

### **Gamco Industries, Inc.**

P.O. Box 186256  
Big Spring, TX 79721-1862  
915/267-6327  
800/351-1404

### **Knowledge Revolution**

497 Vermont St.  
San Francisco, CA 94107  
415/553-8153

### **Lawrence Productions**

1800 South 35th St.  
Galesburg, MI 49053-9687  
800/421-4157

### **Maxis**

1042 Country Club Dr., Suite C  
Moraga, CA 94556  
415/376-6434

### **National Geographic Services**

Educational Services  
Dept. 90  
Washington, DC 20036  
202/828-6605  
800/368-2728

### **Optical Data**

30 Technology Dr.  
Box 4919  
Warren, NJ 07060  
201/668-0022  
800/524-2481

### **Pelican Software, Inc.**

768 Farmington Ave.  
Farmington, CT 06032  
800/247-4641

### **Scholastic**

2931 East McCarty St.  
P.O. Box 7502  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
800/541-5513

### **Sunburst Communications**

39 Washington Ave.  
Pleasantville, NY 10570-2898  
800/628-8897

### **The Voyager Company**

1351 Pacific Coast Hwy.  
Santa Monica, CA 90401  
800/446-2001

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- Developing and disseminating effective educational products and procedures
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- Providing technical assistance in educational problem solving
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- Serving as an information resource on effective educational programs and processes including networking among educational agencies, institutions and individuals in the region

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