

AVMATERIALS



540 CHEMISTRY

Essential Chemistry: Core Concepts Video Clip Library. Films Media Group, P.O. Box 2053, Princeton, NJ 08543; 2010. Color. 191 min. DVD: \$499.95. Closed captioned.

JH, YA Ac

As a supplemental tool for chemistry lectures in high school settings this product represents a solid overview of general chemistry concepts. The DVD's greatest strength is its high quality visualizations of complex ideas. However, the presentation of measurements, calculations, and thermochemistry is non-existent. These omissions and the glossy generalized nature of much of the other material limit the applicability of this program to high school and non-scientist focused undergraduate courses. The clarity and wide-scope application of chemistry to the surrounding world would also encourage interest in the field in high school students. The DVD's reliance on the Bohr model of the atom and total lack of dimensional analysis in addition to the omissions listed above would make it inappropriate for major-level undergraduate courses. With regard to equity presented in the DVD, the predominant voice of the series is male, specifically a Caucasian male. The representation of women in the series is limited to a single featured female scientist. Even more neglected is every other racial and ethnic group along with individuals with disabilities. These groups are not presented in a stereotypical manner; however, their absence is also harmful. The DVD does avoid religious topics and controversial issues. Overall the DVD product could act as a quality accompaniment for

high school level chemistry courses where complex visualization could aid in understanding. Chemistry topics are treated in a general method with solid ties to real-world applications reinforced. However, the use of this product to promote multi-cultural interest in chemistry is greatly limited. —*Sarah J.R. Staton, Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, DC*

570 LIFE SCIENCES

No Dinosaurs in Heaven. New Day Films, 190 Route 17M Suite D, Harriman, NY 10926; 2010. Color. 53 min. DVD: \$289.00 (Institutions, Colleges and Universities), \$59.00 (K-12 Schools), \$49.00 (Public Libraries).

YA, C, T, GA ★★

No Dinosaurs in Heaven chronicles the many significant issues and arguments necessary to understand and, in essence, to support the scientific basis for evolution. The film propels the viewer to the heart of the problem presented by the challenges of creationism to the teaching of a scientific approach. *No Dinosaurs in Heaven* emphasizes the point that science uses observations and actual physical evidence to establish facts and the basis for evolution. While on the other hand, creationism first states a view and/or conclusion, and then chooses and combines selective facts with religious beliefs, which are not necessarily scientifically sound. The science instructors in the film clearly stress the need for a critical analysis of all the facts and not just those that are selected to support a particular conclusion. *No Dinosaurs in Heaven*

includes viewpoints of both science instructors and one instructor who is a staunch supporter of creationism. These individuals are interviewed in several locations including classrooms and other types of school environments. One cannot help but wonder from these segments why the creationism instructor is teaching evolution while not keeping an open mind as to its existence. The film points out the basis of the controversy and stresses that creationism does not address the observations and explanations of the evidence associated with establishing the scientific basis for evolution with any concrete arguments or facts. This point becomes quite evident from the statements of the creationist instructor, who quickly switches to other topics when he can't find any facts to refute the physical and empirical evidence presented to him. The viewer might wonder why this individual is teaching science. This is especially the case when students question him about his particular viewpoints. The situation raises the question as to whether an individual with a creationism point-of-view can truly present the scientific evidence for the existence of evolution in an unbiased manner. There are a number of interesting discussions, classroom sessions, and interviews, some with surprising results. With the awesome scenery of the Grand Canyon as a classroom, the viewer will be impressed with the conflict between creationism and the endeavor to prevent the religious attacks on the scientific basis for evolution. The subject of some films is meant to be tasted, while with other films such as *No Dinosaurs in Heaven* the subject matter should be chewed and digested. —*George Allen Wistreich, East Los Angeles College, Monterey Park, CA*