

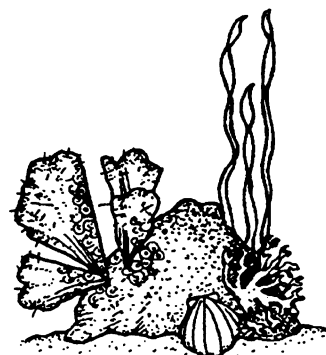
Introduction

The use of trade books can enhance the study of science. The key to selecting these books is to check them for scientific accuracy and appropriateness for the level of the students. *The Magic School Bus*® series, written by Joanna Cole, is an outstanding example of books which can help students enjoy and learn about science. These books are delightfully written and scientifically accurate, thanks to the thorough research done by the author as she writes each of her books.

This *Science/Literature Unit* is directly related to *The Magic School Bus*® on the *Ocean Floor*. The activities in this unit are particularly appropriate for intermediate years. Teachers who use this unit will find a variety of lessons to do before, during, and after reading the book with their students. These include the following:

- A Pre-reading Activity
- A Biographical Sketch and Picture of the Author
- A Book Summary
- Activity-oriented lessons which expand the topics covered in the story:
 - comparing the area of water to land on earth
 - observing live goldfish
 - comparing the density of fresh water and salt water
 - comparing the density of hot and cold water
 - plotting a tide graph for a month
 - creating a mural depicting views of the ocean floor
 - dissecting a fish
 - sorting and identifying plankton drawings
 - measuring the lengths of sharks
 - investigating life in the ocean's depths
 - making a model of the ocean floor
 - constructing a pop-up book of life on a reef
- A Post-reading Activity
- Unit Assessment
- Answer Key

This unit is designed to help you present exciting lessons for your students so that they can develop their understanding and appreciation of the earth's oceans.



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