



# Project 2061

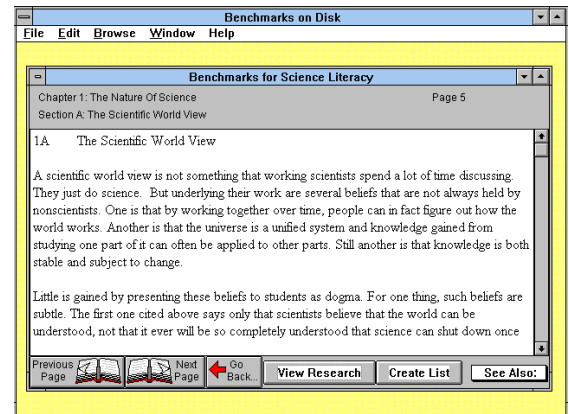
PROJECT 2061 OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION for the Advancement of Science is a long-term effort to reform K-12 science education nationwide. Its 1989 report, *Science for All Americans (SFAA)*, outlined what all high school graduates should know and be able to do in science, mathematics, and technology. In its 1993 publication, *Benchmarks for Science Literacy*, Project 2061 provided a curriculum design tool that translates the literacy goals of *SFAA* into learning expectations for the ends of grades 2, 5, 8, and 12 and encourages continuity and meaningful cross-connections in the K-12 curriculum.

*Benchmarks for Science Literacy on Disk* is now available for use in MS-DOS, Microsoft Windows, and Apple Macintosh. These software versions of the 448-page *Benchmarks for Science Literacy* enable users to browse through the entire book or search for particular text words. Users can also tailor their searches to assemble and print sets of related benchmarks by grade level. A cross-reference feature allows users to quickly consult other sections of *Benchmarks* related to the benchmarks at hand and to recognize impor-

tant connections among the benchmarks across grade levels and across subjects. Another feature allows users to consult the re-

search base that influenced the content and grade-level placement of benchmarks. *Benchmarks on Disk* offers several other useful features not available in the book:

**Strands.** Sample “strands,” sequences of benchmarks that trace student progress toward particular science literacy goals, allow users to see how concepts develop from rudimentary ideas suitable for young children to some of the sophisticated concepts in *SFAA*. There are 20 sample strands in the MS-DOS version and 30 in the Mac and Windows versions. The sample strands cover a wide



range of topics such as Understandability of the World, Considering Costs and Benefits of Technology, Water Cycle, Fossil Evidence, and Sanitation.

**Maps.** Each strand is accompanied by a map that illustrates how the benchmarks build on and reinforce one another as they lead up to a specific science literacy goal. The sample strands and maps can be used in the analysis and planning of a K-12 curriculum, or can inspire users to develop additional strands for other goals in *SFAA*. The Mac and Windows versions also allow users to create and edit their own strands.

**Benchmarks Roulette.** Another special feature of the software is Benchmarks Roulette, which provides users with a random sample of six benchmarks from one grade span and challenges them to develop an activity that covers as many of the benchmarks as possible. The exercise can serve as a warm-up for more deliberative attempts to look across the boundaries of traditional disciplines and assemble conceptually interesting sets of benchmarks for instruction and assessment.

**An Invitation.** Let us know about your work with *Benchmarks on Disk* and your attempts to develop your own strands. We are eager to receive new strands and maps or your suggestions for improvement of the disks.

## *Benchmarks for Science Literacy on Disk*

*For MS-DOS, Windows and Macintosh*

## About Project 2061

Project 2061 of the American Association for the Advancement of Science is a long-term initiative to reform K-12 education nationwide so that all high school graduates are science literate. Its 1989 report, *Science for All Americans (SFAA)*, outlined what all high school graduates should know and be able to do in science, mathematics, and technology. Project 2061 is now creating a coordinated set of reform tools to help educators meet those goals in their own districts. Working with six school-district teams of teachers and administrators, Project 2061 has developed *Benchmarks for Science Literacy*, a curriculum design tool that translates the literacy goals of *SFAA* into expectations for the ends of grades 2, 5, 8, and 12.

*SFAA* and *Benchmarks* will soon be joined by *Resources for Science Literacy*, a computer-based tool to help educators improve their own understanding of science literacy and identify and evaluate instructional materials to help students make progress towards it; *Designs for Science Literacy*, a guide to help educators take a systematic design approach to planning a K-12 curriculum; and *Blueprints for Reform*, recommendations for how various aspects of the K-12 education system must change to accommodate necessary curriculum reforms. Eventually, all of these tools will be pulled together in a computer-based, interactive, multimedia curriculum-design and resource system.

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Project 2061 publications are available from Oxford University Press. For ordering information, please call **1-800/451-7556**.