

# Tips from a Teacher

## WHY?

- ▶ The web adventures are FREE!
- ▶ Students love the interactivity and storylines.
- ▶ The learning objectives are aligned very well with both the Science and Health Standards.
- ▶ There are “checks for understanding” and quizzes that are part of the package.

## WHEN?

- ▶ Web adventures work well as embedded lessons or standing alone as a unit.
- ▶ Build anticipation before the unit by hanging up the poster or bringing in objects that occur in the story.

## HOW?

- ▶ Don't build the web adventures up as just a “game.” Describe it as an alternative way to learn.
- ▶ If you use the computer lab, it is helpful (but not required) to use headphones. The students love the sound effects and sometimes the characters speak.
- ▶ A single classroom computer connected to a projection system CAN work. Assign students the characters' parts and then have them read the talk bubbles out loud. Have students take turns “playing” the interactives.
- ▶ The program works well in either class period time frames or block schedules. Either way, stop after about 30 minutes and do a group “check for understanding” to make sure they understand the main points and the big picture.
- ▶ Try having students re-enact some of the segments of the story or talk aloud about the experiments they encountered.
- ▶ Do some of the correlated hands-on activities that are provided or ones you already do that you know work well with your students for reinforcement.

## WHAT ELSE?

- ▶ Use the “Cool Links” option at the end of the segments for students who finish more quickly.
- ▶ Write the difficult vocabulary words on the board before you go to the computer lab.
- ▶ Practice pronunciations in class to help with vocabulary comprehension as the students encounter the new words in the episodes.
- ▶ Have students complete the Mission Log assignments as they do the episodes. Pre-test and post-tests are available on-line and can be used, too.
- ▶ Print out a set of teaching materials and store them in a notebook for easy lesson planning.
- ▶ With the MedMyst series, use the magazine to reinforce reading and writing skills while teaching your content area objectives.

## CHECK OUT

- ✔ MedMyst (<http://medmyst.rice.edu>) with a focus on Infectious Disease
- ✔ N-Squad (<http://nsquad.rice.edu>) with a focus on Alcohol Use and Abuse
- ✔ Reconstructors (<http://reconstructors.rice.edu>) with a focus on Drugs of Abuse

**ALL THE SERIES HAVE EXCELLENT SCIENCE PROCESS SKILL PRACTICE**