

STAO Resources to Support the New Grade 12 Curriculum



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Additional support materials are being created to help teachers implement the new Grade 12 Curriculum. STAO focus groups have identified areas of major concern and are creating resources to support four of these areas:

- SNC4M Introduction to SNC4M
- SES4U Grade 12 Earth and Space Science Course
- SPH4M Communications Systems Unit in Grade 12 U/C Science Course
- SBI4U Biohazardous Fact Sheets for DNA Technology

These resources are being developed by teams of experienced teachers and include a combination of course/unit overviews, lesson plans with activities and worksheets for students, and assessment strategies.

INTRODUCTION TO SNC4M

This resource offers teachers of SNC4M a detailed and organized outline for the entire course. Key Ideas have been linked to coded expectations and include a few ideas for assessment. The highlights of this resource are the variety of handouts, worksheets, activities, background information and related websites that are available to ease with the first time of teaching this course.

EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCE INVESTIGATIONS

A collection of classroom ready investigations giving students opportunities to gain an understanding of the principles at work in earth and space science through experimentation. Each activity includes: teacher guidelines, links to the SES4U curriculum expectations, assessment strategies, and student handouts.

COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS UNIT TEACHER'S RESOURCE

This resource will examine the theory and provide activities and assessment strategies to support expectations for the Communications Systems Unit in the Grade 12 U/C Science Course (SNC4M). This teacher-friendly resource will include notes to teachers for several demonstrations, a list of Internet resources, and activity topics which teachers could use as a culminating evaluation.

DNA TECHNOLOGY - SOME CRITICAL SAFETY ISSUES WHEN PERFORMING GEL ELECTROPHORESIS

The focus of this project is to provide a critical understanding of the process of Gel Electrophoresis and executing the process of Gel Electrophoresis with an emphasis on safety issues in handling equipment, chemicals and support matrices such as starch gels, agarose gels and polyacrylamide gels. This information will assist teachers in applying basic concepts of DNA analysis within the Grade 12 Biology University Preparation Program (SBI 4U) - Strand: Molecular Genetics.

These resources will be available after October 31, 2002 in the following ways:

- **Downloadable at no cost from the STAO Website at www.stao.org**
- **Hard copy at nominal cost from the STAO Science Store (order form on www.stao.org)**
- **At the STAO Science Store at STAO 2002: Targeting Success, November 7-9, 2002.**



New ScienceWorks Professional Development workshops are available to assist teachers with implementation strategies for any of the new grade 12 courses, as well as the resource documents that have been developed. Further information about STAO ScienceWorks workshops can be found on the STAO Website (www.stao.org), or call the STAO office at 1-800-461-2264. These workshops will be available as part of the STAO 2002: Targeting Success conference program.