The Exploring the Living Cell DVD includes a wide range of films about the cell, covering many topics and providing background information for lessons: the history of the discovery of the cell, ethical debates about stem cells and evolution/creationism, and current research in cell biology. For the school curriculum, however, the most useful part of the DVD is certainly the film Voyage Inside the Cell.

This animation is breathtaking for two reasons. First, it includes excellent colourful representations of cell structures and a detailed close-up picture produced by an electron microscope, giving the viewer the feeling of being in the middle of the action. Second, the film’s underlying explanations are so fast that one starts to gasp for air, glued to the fast-changing scenery while still absorbing the information.

Older school students with a good knowledge of cell biology will find the animation very useful for reviewing what they have already learned and will enjoy the perfect visualisation.

For teaching the structure and function of the cell to less advanced students, there is a slower version of the animated film which includes many of the animations found on the DVD, is also a very useful teaching tool. It offers a diversity of ‘real-life’ videos, short enough to repeat and discuss in the classroom whenever related topics come up. Watching these prize-winning movies is very motivating, and makes the science of cell interaction more fun to study. The whole webpage should win a prize!

Web references
w1 – A slower version of the Voyage Inside the Cell film can be purchased ($24.95) here: www.sinauer.com/voyage/video.php
w2 – On the Bioclips website, 90 sequences of cells from the Exploring the Living Cell DVD are made freely available: www.bioclips.com/dvd/

Full contents
- The story of the discovery of the cell: 1 film
- Evolution and diversity of cells, stem cells, debates: 4 films
- The world of biologists, laboratories and cells: 13 films
- Voyage inside the cell: 1 computer-animated film
- Explanatory notes, links to websites

Details
Publisher: CNRS Images, with support from INSERM, Max Planck, Zeiss
Publication year: 2006

Running time: 180 minutes
Format: DVD 9 PAL, all zones, format 4:3
Menus and subtitles: English, French and German

Ordering
Price: €35 (private use) or €45 (institutional use)
The DVD can be ordered from:
Véronique Goret (Sales)
CNRS Images
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Website: www.cnrs.fr/cnrs-images/