

Digital video takes off

page 5 finds such as the Rosetta stone and Tutankhamun's tomb. Children have the chance to become virtual archaeologists, wandering through ancient passages, answering questions and collecting clues from Egypt's rich past.

Special needs

Planet Wobble, a delightful new reading resource from Crick, provides a series of reading materials for early readers and writers. Stories

about the six characters come as on-screen books, with related screen-based activities and printed reading books. The newly launched website (www.planetwobble.com) is well worth a visit (stand SN14).

The Dyscalculia Screener from NFER Nelson is a computer-based assessment program that indicates whether pupils have specific learning difficulties in maths. Designed by Professor Brian Butterworth, the

UK's leading authority on dyscalculia, the test is fun to take, easy to administer and delivers an individual pupil profile (stand E40/F40).

Finally, Semerc's Spell-Track provides a structured spelling program designed to help learners who have specific difficulties with phonological awareness. The program encourages children to use the "look, cover, write and check" technique to learn to spell (stand E40). (See also special needs, p25)

Secondary

Digital video will be on offer from various companies this year. Apple, an early leader in the field, will be showing examples of work done in schools and demonstrating its latest wireless tools built around the Airport system (stand E34) www.apple.com.

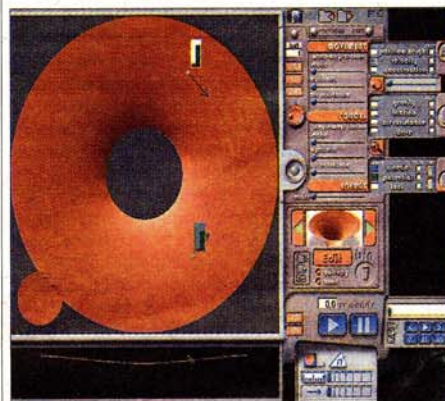
Apple, Canon UK, UltraLab (the ICT in education research institute), Media Education Wales and Film Education have joined forces for BETT 2003 to demonstrate the possibilities of digital video within educational contexts in an updated repeat

of last year's feature "BETT goes to the movies". Combining a range of specialities and perspectives, the area will demonstrate the potential of digital video (DV) by examining four areas: creativity, composition, performance and content.

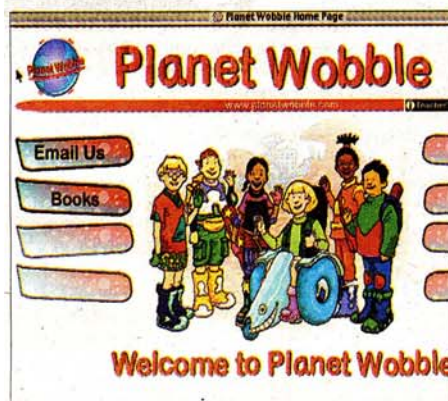
Groups of young people will be creating their own content which will then be streamed to machines around the show. Teachers wanting to get to grips with DV can take part in free half-hour DV training sessions (the area is adjacent to Seminar Theatre E).

Avid (www.avid.com/education), which produces industry standard video-editing software, is showing its Xpress DV v3.5 software (stand D154). This is designed to provide an affordable, complete editing studio for Mac or PC. It also shares the same industry standard editing interface as the advanced Avid Media Composer, so students can get a feel for what they might meet later in the workplace.

Immersive Education has already set a new standard in



Virtual lab: Krucible software's waves (top) and energy



Early learning: Crick's Planet Wobble helps young readers

classroom interactivity with its Kartouche series for Shakespeare, allowing students to manipulate characters on screen and literally put words into their mouths. Its new Krucible software aims to provide a virtual lab on the computer screen, allowing students to experiment with ripple tanks, light sources and waves. Krucible will cover science topics for key stages 3, 4 and 5, including energy, forces, waves and optics (stand D72).

Interactive whiteboards continue to develop, offering greater flexibility and software options (see whiteboard evaluations, p13). Promethean

will be showing a range of boards and other wireless devices designed for voting and student contributions in the classroom, along with its interactive teaching software (stand V60/D66).

The Hitachi Starboard has also benefited from a collaboration with Cambridge University, resulting in LessonplanIT, a teaching software range that will operate on any interactive whiteboard (Interactive Whiteboard Company, stand Q43).

RM will be launching a Bluetooth Classpad which works with its interactive whiteboard. You'll be able to book a free school loan of the

bluetooth-compatible tablet PC at the RM stand or via its website (www.rm.com).

Smart Technologies will launch its new Bridgit software, aimed at simplifying the process of video-conferencing. The software will enable people to connect with one another across the internet. A simple click of a button will allow you to share your desktop instantly and include participants from any location. See this along with a new finger-driven Smartboard (stand G40).

The Sony Classroom (stand B104) will be used to demonstrate the benefits that a combination of audio-

visual and computing equipment can bring. There will be a particular focus on moving away from the traditional use of IT equipment for developing ICT skills during ICT classes and integrating these skills into the teaching and learning of other subjects such as history, French and mathematics.

Sony will also demonstrate how a class in the UK can be joined by a class in another country via a live video and audio link to make foreign language classes more fun.

A full seminar programme runs through the show, starting tomorrow at 12.30pm with a retrospective keynote from Lord Stevenson, former ICT special adviser to the Prime Minister. His report in 1997 highlighted the potential opportunities of an ICT-rich learning environment.

On Thursday at 11am Marian Brooks, head of a West London language college, will share her vision on how — with 80% of her students coming from homes where English is not the first language — ICT can be used to achieve results well above the national average.

On Saturday at 11am, Professor Stephen Heppell from the ICT in education research institute, UltraLab,



Pop group 3SL takes time out to visit Langleywood school, in Slough, Bucks, to support its after-school computer club for girls, one of 24 being funded by the South-Eastern Regional Development Agency and the e-Skills UK agency to encourage teenage girls to get interested in ICT. The government-backed pilot scheme will shortly be expanded to another 100 schools in preparation for a national launch. Find out more by visiting the e-Skills UK stand at the BETT show.

will focus on "More Creative Children".

Finally, the BETT awards, often described as the Oscars for ICT and awarded to the makers of the best educational software, enter a new phase this year. Becta (British Educational Technology and Communications

agency) has undertaken field studies to assess the software entries as part of the judging process. It will publish reports on its website as part of its new information service on software.

More show details at: www.bettshow.com

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