

Review of EBEC Films

Mathematics Peep Show, Eames, 1962 11 minutes

Eratosthenes, How to Measure the Earth
Topology - problems of inside and outside
Symmetry
Functions
 2^n - chessboard problem

indication of how much you can do in 11 minutes

presents the concept (but how concept was developed, ie., how you get to it is not that clear)

not clear what purpose of concept is, ie. what it is good for, eg. topology, symmetry, 2^n

shows power of graphic representation, eg. topology, 2^n , symmetry

some go too fast, cannot absorb, want to look at more slowly

Looking at Mammals, 1967 11 minutes (elementary)

spun off making of Dr. Doolittle film, looks very old,

visuals often just background for narration

not very dense

Desert, 1962 22 minutes

visuals and narration loosely connected

eg. "roadrunner gets water from flesh and blood of its prey." the visual is of a roadrunner running across the ground.

(wouldn't this have been better as a still or showing the roadrunner catching prey or a chart showing the amount of water in various roadrunner prey or something)

description of plant life more closely linked to visuals, what is being talked about is being illustrated, eg., leaf structures of desert plants

very old color

shows relationship of plants and animals - ecology

Ecology of a Hot Spring (Life at High Temperatures) 1972, 15 min.

interaction of life, water and moisture

follows a scientist at work, studying the hot spring

Ecology of a Hot Spring contd.

mentions photosynthesis but doesn't define - good example of
the value of an active glossary

needed to refer people to various concepts (ie. the glossary)

The Solar System 1977 22 minutes

slow, waste of space (on film ie) (edited by Nina Kleinberg)

good visuals -- shots too long, but visually related to
narration

(would be nice to be able to put you in a spaceship, via
videodisc, and let you guide controls to travel around)

basic descriptions of surface phenomena, no real data

Simple Machines 1963, 14 minutes (elementary)

describes the lever family

dramatic intro (uses kids in a situation - stage production
at school, pulley is used to simulate flight of the hero

looks old

force/fulcrum/ load - better to show more ways, to increase
chance of understanding

no animation