

Geoscience Education Through Interactive Technology (GETIT)

Publisher: The Learning Team

Developer: Cambrian Systems, Inc.

Grade levels: 6–12

Scientific domain: Earth science

Web sites:

<http://learningteam.org/htmls/getit.html>

<http://www.cambriansystems.com>

Year profiled: 2002

GETIT, developed in 2000, is a CD-ROM comprising 63 interactive activities for the study of earth science. The activities often include simulations, charting, graphing, and data collected by scientific organization. Activities are organized within six major content areas, listed in the *GETIT* Activity Matrix, available through the developer's Web site. The collection of activities is a resource for teachers who may be constructing a course. The product was developed in collaboration with the Geological Society of America and with funding from the National Science Foundation.

SCOPE/CONTENT

The CD-ROM is a collection of interactive tutorial and investigative activities covering the following topics: geology, hurricanes, seismology (earthquakes), plate tectonics, volcanoes, and rock melting. Teachers and students can access the activities through a conventional list or by moving through the corridors and rooms of a simulated earth science museum. The activities are located within exhibits and research lab stations throughout the museum. For example, the hurricane section of the museum houses an activity related to temperature and heat.

FORMAT

The program is available on CD-ROM with an accompanying teacher's guide. Students take notes directly on the CD-ROM, and teachers can access the Teacher's Administrative Tool to keep a roster of students and record information about each student's progress.

ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS

This program does not include a formal assessment instrument. However, students can keep their own notes on the CD's software. This feature provides a form of student work that teachers can access for review by way of a Teacher's Administrative Tool, which is built into the software. The teacher can also read students' replies to questions asked as part of some activities. From these, the teacher can assess the students' understanding of the activities.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

A teacher's guide that explains how to use the program accompanies the CD-ROM. No further professional development is provided.

STAND-ALONE VS. SUPPLEMENTAL

GETIT requires that the teacher provide a coherent earth science curriculum framework that can integrate the numerous *GETIT* activities as a supplement.