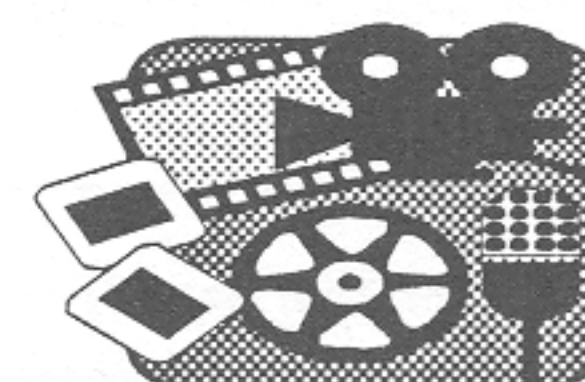


## THE DISCRETE REVIEWER

by Janice Kowalczyk



This is a new column which will give suggestions for and reviews of discrete mathematics resources for the classroom. The original plan for this column proposed Siskel and Ebert as the reviewers, but upon review of our clip-art collection we realized we did not have one thumb up let alone two! Therefore, you and your fellow discrete math teachers will have to fill their shoes. We would appreciate your comments and recommendations in order to make future columns more useful to you.

Each column will have a special focus on a topic in discrete math as well as general recommendations. The special topic for this issue is graph coloring.

### FAVORITE GRAPH-COLORING RESOURCES:

#### *Activity (7-12)*

**NCTM Student Math Notes**, by Thomas Dick, NCTM News Bulletin, November 1990.

I like this activity because it discusses the 4-color problem using the United States Map and is simple to use. It is perfect for 7th and 8th grade students.

—Judyann Brown, Pleasant Valley Middle School, Brodheadsville, PA.

#### *Miscellaneous (3-12)*

**Giant U.S. Map**, (approx. 4'x6'; heavy paper; B on W; no markings except borders), J.L. Hammett Co., P.O. Box 3106, 685 Liberty Ave., Union, NJ 07083  
Phone: 1-800-333-4600  
Order No: 87105 Cost: \$10.59 + tax/shpg

Great for coloring activities with groups. —Editor

#### *Video (9-12)*

**Geometry: New Tools for Technologies**, COMAP Suite 210, 57 Bedford Street, Lexington, MA 02173.  
Phone: 1-800-772-6627 Fax: 1-617-863-1202  
E-mail: orders@comap.com Cost: \$70

This well-done five-unit, one-hour video, complete with user's guide, illustrates the geometric tools of the 20th century: motion planning, error-correcting codes, Euler circuits, vertex coloring, and tomography. The unit "Connect the Dots" is a summary of graph-coloring applications.

—Ethel Breuche, Freehold High School, Freehold, NJ.

#### *Learning Module (7-12)*

**The Mathematician's Coloring Book** by Richard L. Francis, COMAP, Suite 210, 57 Bedford Street, Lexington, MA 02173.

Phone: 1-800-772-6627 Fax: 1-617-863-1202

E-mail: orders@comap.com Cost: \$11.99

This entertaining unit on the 4-color theorem can be used for either general math or geometry students. It includes maps, pictures and worksheets to explore map coloring.—JK

### OTHER RESOURCES:

#### *Software (K-12)*

**Tabletop Jr. (K-6)**, and **Tabletop Sr. (6-12)**, TERC, Broderbund Software, P.O. Box 6125, Novato, CA 94948.

Phone: 1-800-521-6263 Fax: 1-415-382-4419

Cost for each: School Edition, \$89.95

IBM and Macintosh versions available.

**Tabletop Jr.** is an outstanding tool that enables students to sort, manipulate and create data sets. Students can develop theories concerning attributes, place value, and plotting while they work with engaging data on pizza or party hats. Accompanied by a teacher's guide with activities.

**Tabletop Sr.** is a database program designed for mathematics, science, social studies, or any subject in which students want to explore and analyze data. This program represents data as mobile icons that can arrange themselves into such forms as box plots, cross tabulations, histograms, scatter plots, and Venn diagrams.—JK

#### *Resource Book (6-12)*

**Math Projects: Organization, Implementation, and Assessment**, by Katie DeMeulemeester, Dale Seymour Publications, P.O. Box 10888, Palo Alto, CA 94303-0879.

Phone: 1-800-827-1100 Fax: 1-415-324-3424

Cost: \$12.95

Katie DeMeulemeester, a 1991 participant in the Leadership Program for Discrete Mathematics, has written a book to help you navigate all phases of math projects. It contains sample student expectations, assessment and parent forms, plus suggestions for meeting the needs of students with different learning styles.—JK