

1972

Dear Iowa Science Teacher

Gary E. Downs

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/istj>



Part of the [Science and Mathematics Education Commons](#)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you

Copyright © Copyright 1972 by the Iowa Academy of Science

Recommended Citation

Downs, Gary E. (1972) "Dear Iowa Science Teacher," *Iowa Science Teachers Journal*: Vol. 10: No. 1, Article 1.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/istj/vol10/iss1/1>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the IAS Journals & Newsletters at UNI ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Iowa Science Teachers Journal by an authorized editor of UNI ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@uni.edu.

Offensive Materials Statement: Materials located in UNI ScholarWorks come from a broad range of sources and time periods. Some of these materials may contain offensive stereotypes, ideas, visuals, or language.

THE IOWA SCIENCE TEACHERS' JOURNAL

A PUBLICATION OF THE IOWA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

Volume 10

Number 1

December 1972

Dear Iowa Science Teacher:

I am pleased to be a part of science education in Iowa. Since my employment with the Department of Public Instruction in early September I have met many fine science teachers in Iowa.

Just a few words about my educational background. I attended elementary and secondary schools in west central Illinois. I received my first two degrees from Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois. Last May I received my doctorate in science education from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Colorado.

My thrust in science education in Iowa will be aimed at the classroom teacher. I hope to be able to make service available to the classroom teacher by using key classroom teachers in Iowa.

I look forward to meeting all you teachers, involved in teaching science, in the coming months.

If I can be of service to you, please contact me at the Grimes Building in Des Moines or call 515-281-3264.

Gary E. Downs
Consultant, Science Education
Division of Curriculum

A LEARNING ACTIVITY PACKAGE APPROACH TO JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE

Jerry Cunningham
Ross Iverson
Miller Junior High School
Marshalltown, Iowa 50158

Introduction

When Sputnik went up so did the status of science in American schools and with the status came money and man power. The money came to individual classrooms as equipment and better trained teachers. A great deal of money and man-power went into developing curriculum projects. While most of these projects are very good, they are not always appropriate for specific times and places. The projects did provide a great many materials to choose from. Our classrooms were specific places and we had a desire to give our students the best possible science experience in the seventh and eighth grades. Our goals were to have a low-structured student centered program that made the best use of our physical facility, equipment, and teacher power. As a result, we formulated a design which included a format, procedures, and a set of materials.

We feel that our design is adaptable to many situations and may provide some ideas for you. The courses we teach are exploratory. We hope to offer the student a wide variety of new experiences while developing a continuing interest in the study of science and a systematic approach to solving problems.

Procedure and Philosophy

We use a "Learning Activity Package" (LAP) approach coupled with some lecture and use of many films. The course is predominantly laboratory oriented. The heart of the program centers on the LAP and the way it is used. An