



# Introductions

- Providing AT to special needs students since 1982
- Support all coded students
- Supporting student with LD since 1991



# Building on a Solid Foundation

- Good, enthusiastic teachers who believe in their students
- Differentiation
- Embarking on a new journey to add technology
- Not one size fits all
- Assistive Technology
- – Tools for Learning





# Assistive Technology

- The devices used by student with disabilities
- Allows students to actively engage in learning and achieve their individual learning goals
- Allows students to perform independently commensurate with their ability
- Assists students to perform functions that would otherwise be difficult or impossible
- Does not give students an advantage – but is the equalizer



# Toolbelt Theory



- **how to analyze a task**
- **about the environment**
- **about their own skills and capabilities**
- **a range of available tools**

**... and let them begin to make their own decisions**





# Why Literacy Matters

UNESCO – Education for All – Global Monitoring Report – Chapter 5 – Why Literacy Matters, 2006

- Human Benefits – self-esteem, empowerment
- Political Benefits – political participation, democracy, ethnic equality
- Cultural Benefits – cultural change, preservation of cultural diversity
- Social Benefits – health, reproductive behavior, education, gender equality
- Economic Benefits – earning potential



# Current Research: Learning to Read

- "Markedly different brain activation patterns between dyslexic readers compared to those of good readers." Sally Shaywitz, *Overcoming Dyslexia*, 2004
- "The studies also indicate that the amount of blood flow to this area [temporal lobe] was highly correlated with the severity of Dyslexia." David Sousa, *How the Special Needs Brain Learns*, 2001



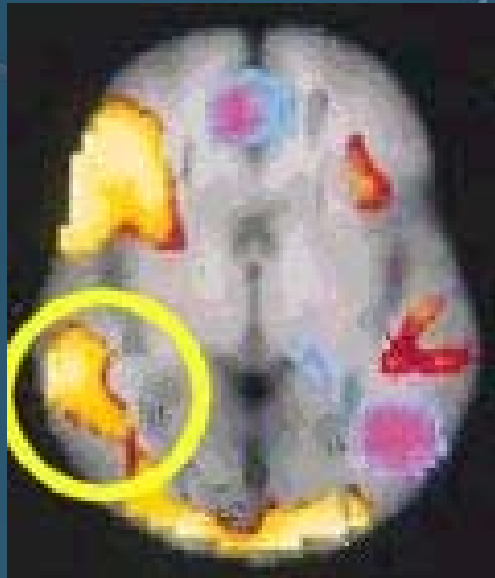
# fMRI

**functional magnetic resonance imaging**





# functional MRI

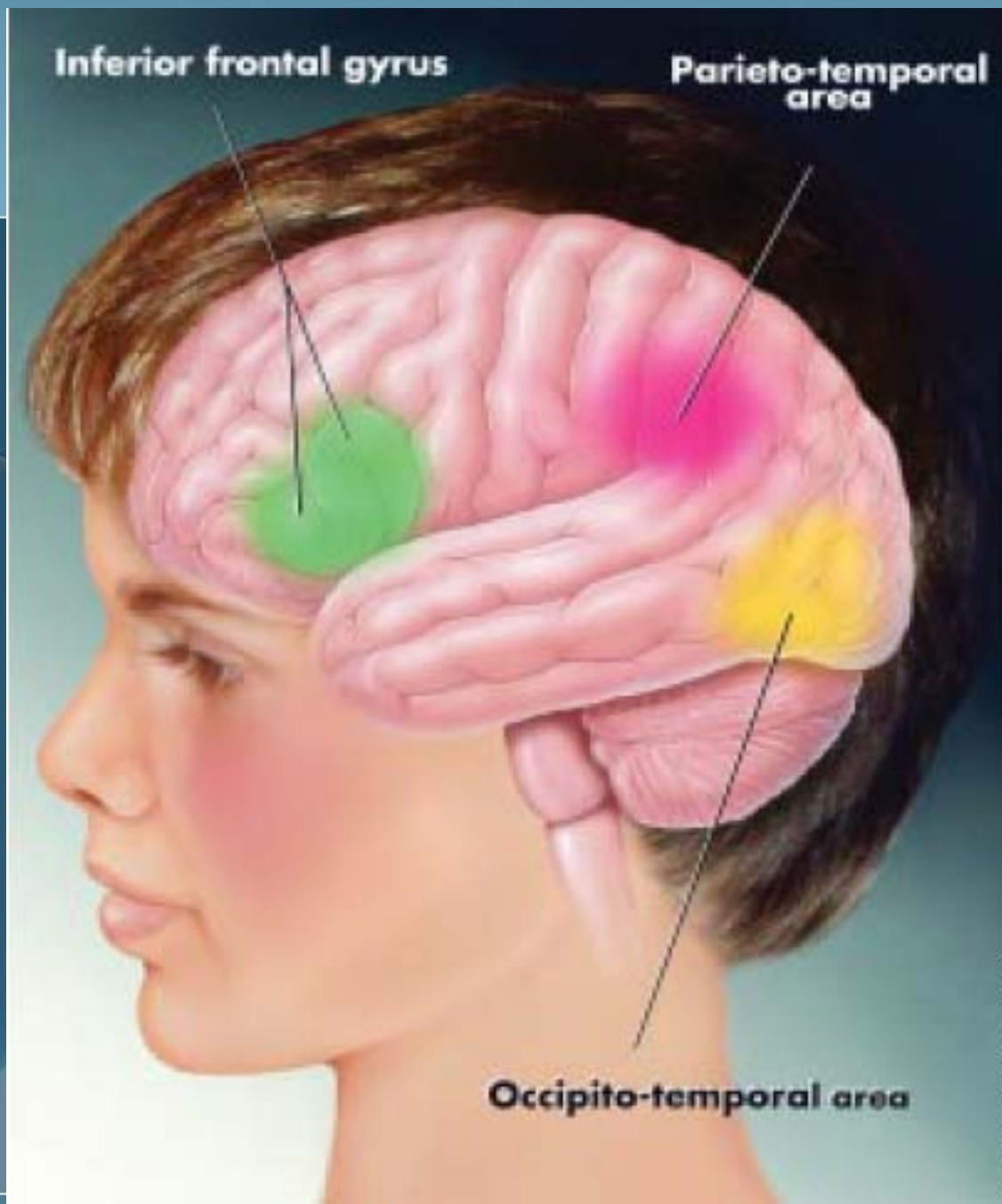


Normal - reading



LD - reading







## Current research tells us:

- There is a disconnect in the brain between the occipital lobe and the temporal lobe
- During an fMRI the temporal lobe does not “light up” while reading

# Evidence from functional MRI study

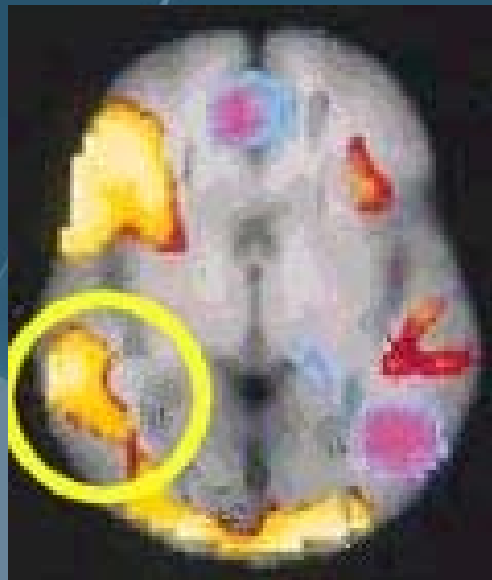
(Temple et al., 2003 Proceedings from the National Academy of Sciences, PNAS, March 4, 2003, Vol. 100, No. 5, pp. 2860-2865.)

with a group of 20 children aged 8-12 years,  
during an 8-week intensive remediation program  
(using software similar to what we use)

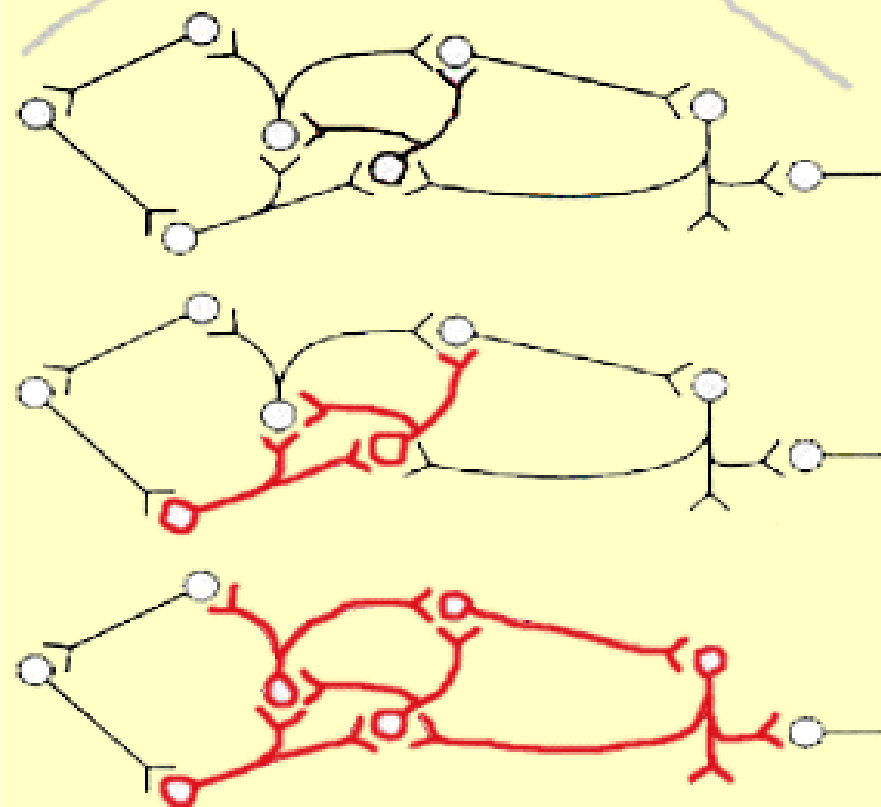
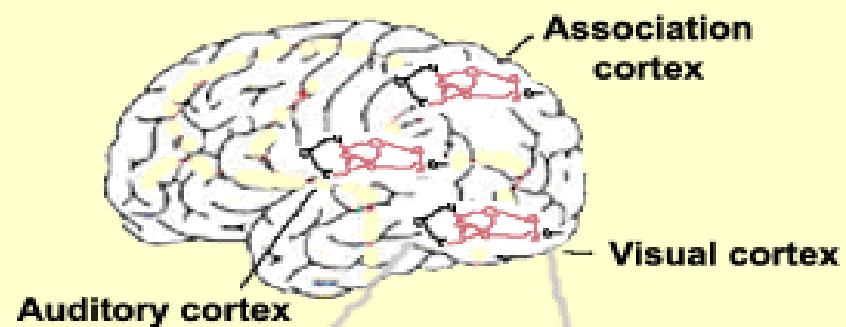
- Resulted in the temporal lobe firing at near normal
- Real-word and pseudo-word decoding improved significantly



# functional MRI

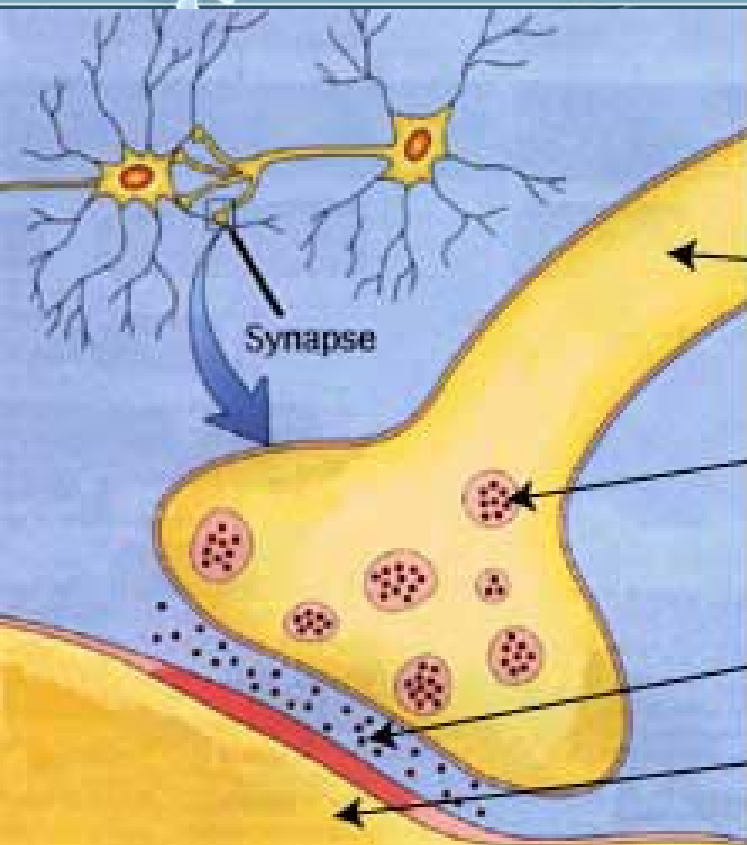


LD - reading



**Selected neural network**





The chemical synapse consists of:

- the terminal button of the **axon** containing
- the **chemical messengers** that are released into the
- **synaptic gap** and travel across it to the
- **dendrite** of the next neuron.



**Danish study** (Tijms & Hoeks, A Computerized Treatment of Dyslexia: Benefits from Treating Lexico-Phonological Processing Problems, 2004) of 267 children, aged 10-14 years, who had a learning disability, participated in a computer based treatment of phonological and phonemic awareness

- Reading rate, reading accuracy, and spelling improved significantly at least to low average ability



**Danish study** (Tijms & Hoeks, A Computerized Treatment of Dyslexia: Benefits from Treating Lexico-Phonological Processing Problems, 2004) of 267 children, aged 10-14 years, who had a learning disability, participated in a computer based treatment of phonological and phonemic awareness

- This study “provided strong support for the claim that reading and spelling disabilities of children with a phonological processing disorder are amenable to treatment.”



- Eden. G. F., & Moats, L. (2002) indicated that intense computer remediation that focused on phonological skills training helped students make significant gains. [The Role of neuroscience in the remediation of students with Dyslexia. *nature neuroscience supplement*, 5. (1080-1083)]



- Edyburn (Failure is Not an Option. *Learning and Leading with Technology*, September 2006) concludes stating that
- The use of technology tools and cognitive supports represent essential and underutilized interventions for enhancing the performance of struggling students. The long term consequences of academic failure must motivate the profession to intervene with carefully designed learning activities that ensure success from the outset. (p. 23)





Performance commensurate with potential

Disability

Accommodation

Performance after maximum remediation

Remediation

Current performance



# Critical Elements to the Effective Integration of AT into the Differentiated Classroom

## Student Learning Profile





# The Software

Performance commensurate with potential

Accommodation

- Digital books
- Wynn

Performance after maximum remediation

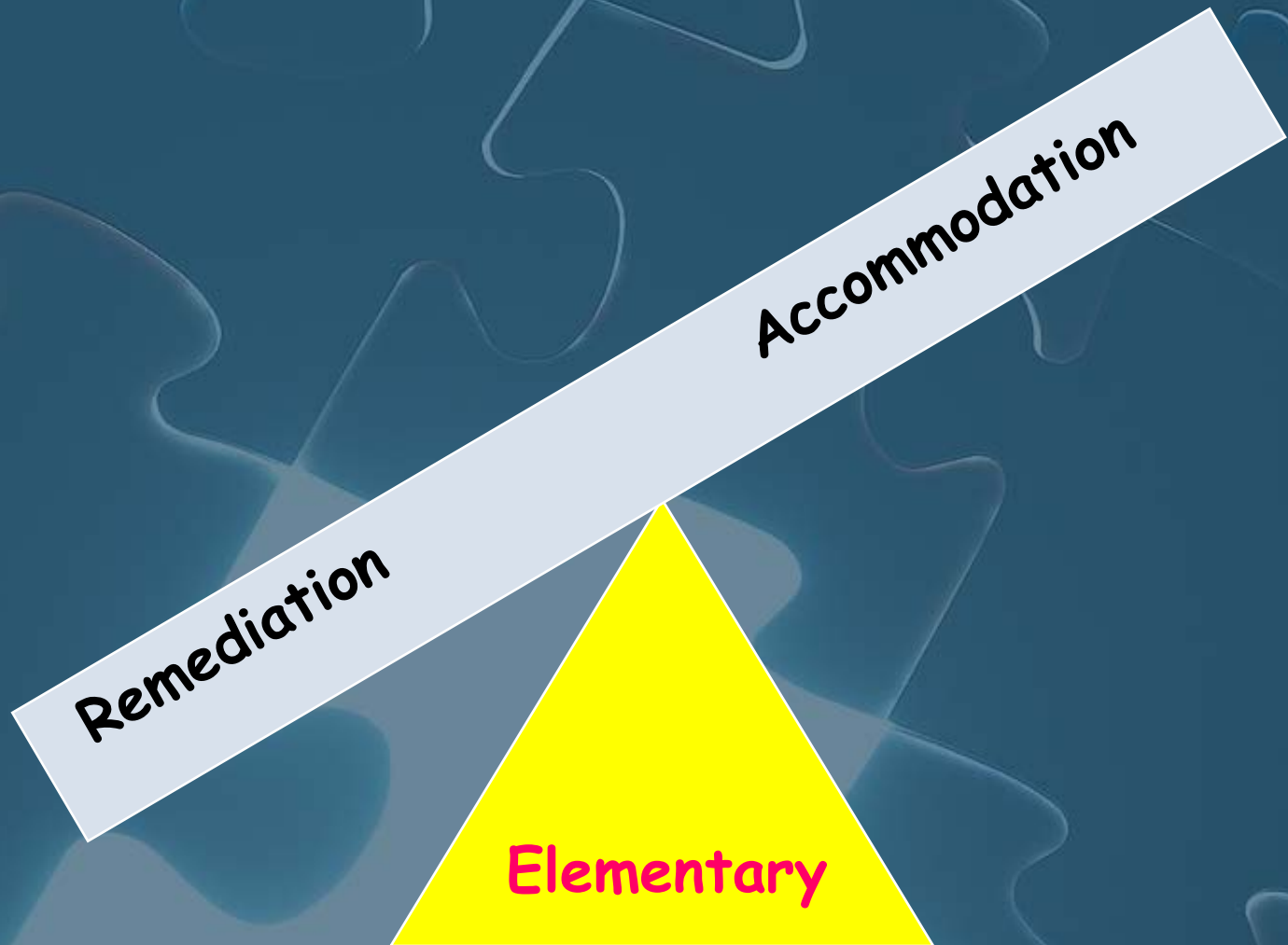
Remediation

- Word Maker
- Simon SIO
- Lexia SOS
- Start to Finish Books

Current performance



# Remediation & Accommodation





# Remediation & Accommodation

**Remediation**

**Accommodation**

**Jr. High**





# Remediation & Accommodation



Remediation

Accommodation

High School



# Wordmaker

- Developed in close collaboration with Dr. Patricia Cunningham.
- Provides planned, sequential and systematic phonics, phonemic-awareness and spelling activities to build students' core reading strategies.
- 140 lessons give students word manipulation practice
- 1000 different word combinations
- Students build sorting skills through repetitive activities and are challenged with new words to prove they can transfer learning



# Simon S.I.O (Sounds it Out)

- Level 1 and Level 2 (50 words/level)
- Multi-level phonics instruction program
- Has a 'tutor' who presents skill-building activities
- Allows students to work at multiple levels and move at their own pace.
- Emergent readers develop core word-attack skills, developing readers learn familiar sounds and word families.



# Lexia Software

- Early Reading
- Primary Reading
- S.O.S. (Strategies for Older Students)





# LEXIA S.O.S.

## (Strategies for Older Students)

- Levels 1, 2 and 3: Word-attack and contextual strategies that help with automatic word recognition (practice with one- to two-syllable words, sentences and paragraphs)
- Level 4: Word-attack strategies for multi-syllable words with open syllables, consonant -le syllables, hard and soft "c" and "g"
- Level 5: Word-attack strategies using prefixes and suffixes





# Start to Finish Library

- engaging narrative chapter books
- text is carefully written and edited to match the interests, social maturity and reading issues of an older struggling reader
- Professional reader
- Word-by-word highlighting
- Comprehension and fluency check



# WYNN Wizard

- Multi-purpose
- Scans pages and converts them into electronic text
- Scanned texts and the Internet can be read aloud
- Highlights each word as it is spoken back
- Has lots of other features
  - ❖ Highlight and create lists
  - ❖ Word prediction
  - ❖ Phonetic spellchecker
  - ❖ Dictionary
- Easy to customize (rate, voice, colour, etc.)



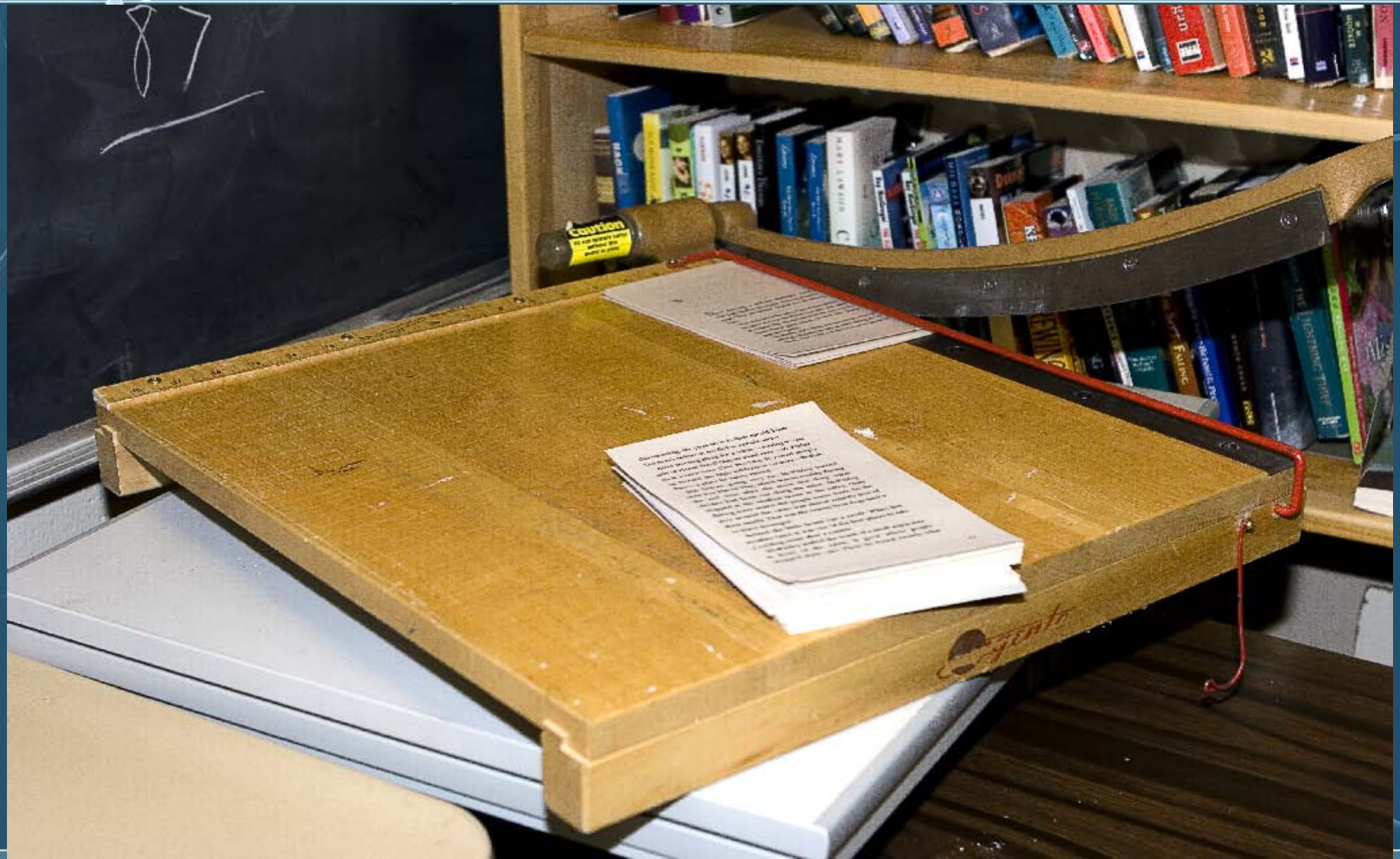
# De-binding







# De-binding

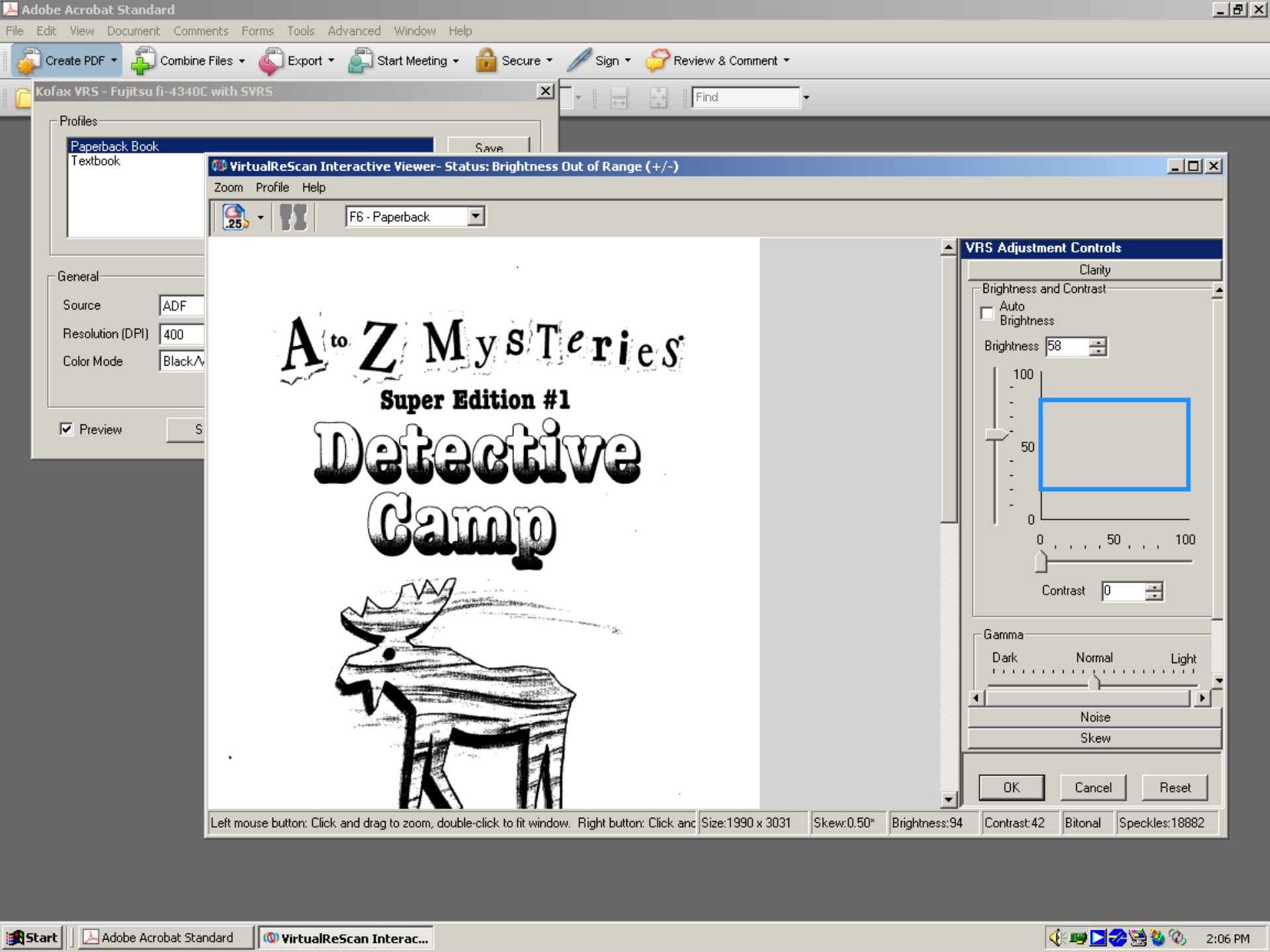




# Scanning









# Editing

- All books are edited
- Editing has been standardized



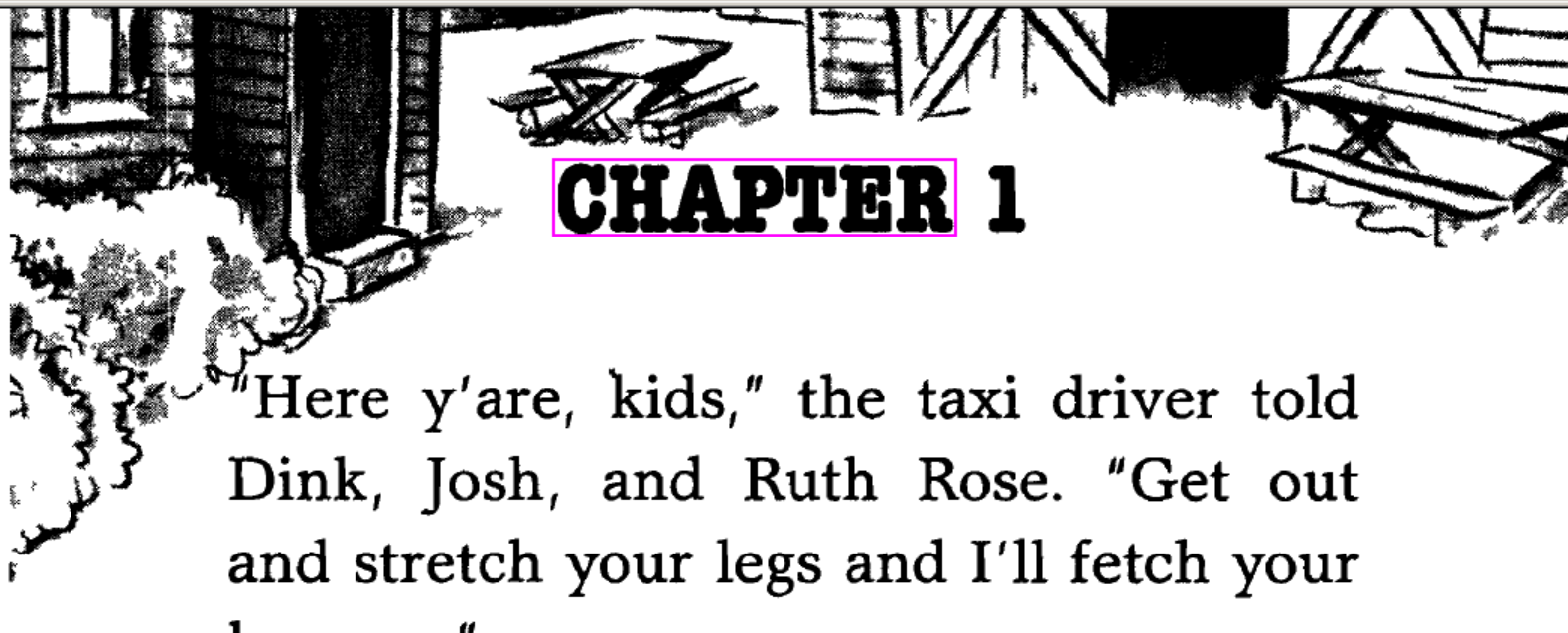
## CHAPTER 1

Here y'are, kids," the taxi driver told Dink, Josh, and Ruth Rose. "Get out and stretch your legs and I'll fetch your luggage."

The kids stepped out of the taxi in Bear Walk, Vermont. They were standing next to a gravel driveway in front of an old lodge built of timber. A banner over the wide porch said welcome to

### DETECTIVE CAMP.

Behind the lodge stood a red barn with its doors open wide.



# Dynamic Zoning

WYNN - [Biology - Nelson - Chapter 02.wyn]

File Edit Scan View Tools Advanced Settings Web Window Help

Re-Define Undo All Erase Redo/Process Copy

**Input energy**

100 % of producer's energy

**Output energy**

20.4 % to decomposers

63.4 % of energy lost by metabolism

16.2 % to primary consumer

**Figure 6**

Most of the energy transformed from solar energy to chemical energy by a plant is used to maintain the plant and to grow. Every time the plant uses some of its energy store, it also loses energy as thermal energy. As a result, when the plant is eaten, only a small amount of energy is available for the primary consumer and decomposers.

thermal energy abiotic environment (matter)

solar energy

fungi

bacteria

producers

consumers

decomposers

thermal energy

thermal energy

**Figure 7**

According to the second law of thermodynamics, energy is lost each time energy is transferred from one organism to another, and inside each organism as it uses the energy to survive.

**INVESTIGATION 2.1 Introduction**

**Constructing Food Webs**

In Part 1 of this Investigation, you will research an Antarctic ecosystem and connect the organisms in a food web. In Part 2, you will construct a food web of organisms found in your community.

To perform this investigation, turn to page 35.

**Report Checklist**

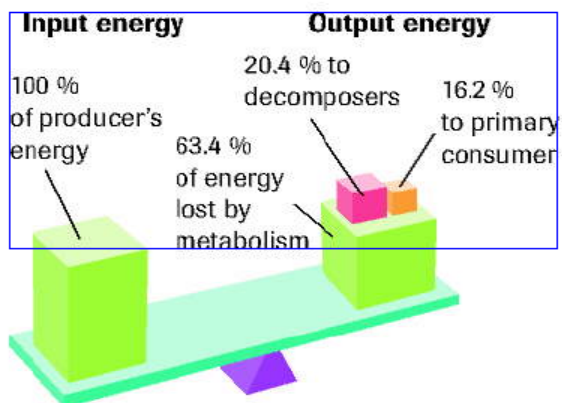
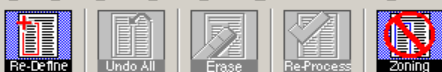
<input type="radio"/> Purpose	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Design	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Analysis
<input type="radio"/> Problem	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Materials	<input type="radio"/> Evaluation
<input type="radio"/> Hypothesis	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Procedure	<input type="radio"/> Synthesis
<input type="radio"/> Prediction	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Evidence	

Line 0 of 1, Page 7 of 20

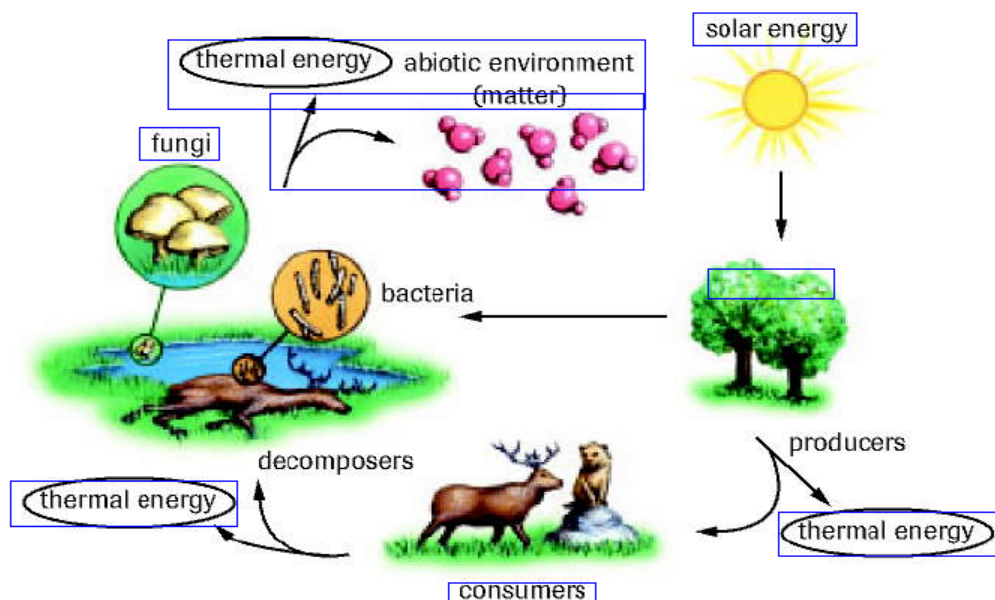
Read-only Mode Exact View Dynamic Zoning Active

Start File Edit View Tools Advanced Settings Web Window Help

4:50 PM

**Figure 6**

Most of the energy transformed from solar energy to chemical energy by a plant is used to maintain the plant and to grow. Every time the plant uses some of its energy store, it also loses energy as thermal energy. As a result, when the plant is eaten, only a small amount of energy is available for the primary consumer and decomposers.

**Figure 7**

According to the second law of thermodynamics, energy is lost each time energy is transferred from one organism to another, and inside each organism as it uses the energy to survive.



## INVESTIGATION 2.1 Introduction

### Constructing Food Webs

In Part 1 of this Investigation, you will research an Antarctic ecosystem and connect the organisms in a food web. In Part 2, you will construct a food web of organisms found in your community.

To perform this investigation, turn to page 35.

### Report Checklist

- |                                  |  |   |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Purpose    | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Design    | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Analysis |
| <input type="radio"/> Problem    | <input type="radio"/> Materials            | <input type="radio"/> Evaluation          |
| <input type="radio"/> Hypothesis | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Procedure | <input type="radio"/> Synthesis           |
| <input type="radio"/> Prediction | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Evidence  |   |





# WYNN Digital Library

- Collection of electronic books in WYNN format
- Available for use at school or home (must have WYNN)
- In high school, available through online learning environment



*"The success of technology has more to do with people than machines. All the right parts and pieces together won't work miracles by themselves. It is people who make technology powerful by creatively using it to fulfill their dreams."*

Alliance for Technology Access 1996, p. 8



*It's about how you use it!*