

SATIS 8-14 — a new project from the Association for Science Education

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In January 1992 the ASE will publish a new project putting science and technology into a social context. Previous SATIS projects for ages 14-16 and 16-19 have been very well received in schools, not least because they are low-cost photocopyable high quality resources. All SATIS units are classroom trialled and verified by experts in their field. The SATIS projects are sponsored by industry, who recognise the importance of

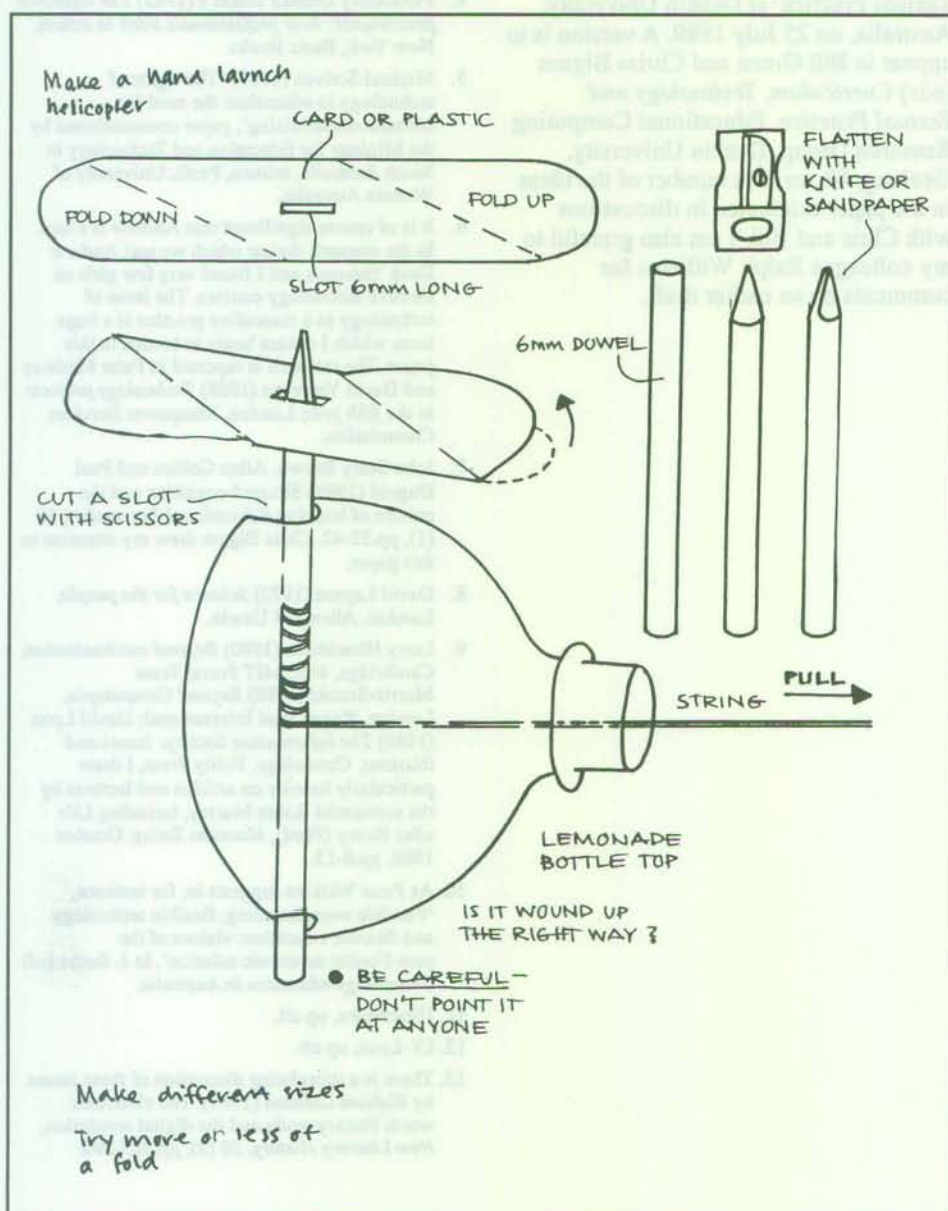
encouraging young people to see the relevance of science and technology to their lives. SATIS 8-14 will be published as three boxes of photocopyable books. The books will be broadly thematic, covering issues like the environment, the human face of science, and the application of science and technology. The SATIS resources will be supported by ten broadcast radio units from the BBC and four networked television

programmes from Central. A data disc will enable young people to see the relationship between information technology and science.

Many of the units will have a technology base. There are units, for example, on using new technology in orthodontics, on building a model space probe and on the design of baby buggies. Other subjects include building to a cost, the construction of electricity pylons, lifting water, and the effectiveness of the Maglev train. The illustrations overleaf/opposite are taken from a unit called 'Take to the air', which looks at the history of flying and the technological advances that made it possible. A simple and ingenious helicopter models the way that rotor blades work and a simple device is closely related to one first used by George Cayley to experiment with the shape of aeroplane wings. Classroom experience shows how successful these are and more than one school has suggested that the wing testing machine is well worth keeping for future use in other contexts. The SATIS unit also contains illustrations from the past showing the steps towards human flight. While these activities are fairly prescribed, other SATIS technology units offer contexts for more open-ended work, opportunities for design, challenges to tackle and problems to solve.

Another interesting unit surrounds the Yorkshire Playhouse and is concerned with the technology of theatres. It was developed by Economatics, the equipment suppliers, and looks at publicity, set design, and lighting. It ends with the story of Gawain and the Green Knight and shows a range of ways of tackling the special effects in presenting this as a play.

SATIS has always made use of audio tapes and BBC Radio were very happy to tackle ten topics which reflect science and technology in society. They include a look at telephones in the past and the future, and a study of how a steering wheel design can help to produce a safer car. If you are interested in recycling then



Book Reviews

a unit called 'Waste on holiday island', looking at how the Scilly Isles solve the annual problem of holiday waste, will be of interest to you. BBC Radio SATIS programmes will be broadcast on Radio 5 throughout March and April. You can record them for classroom use.

Central Television's 'Science — Start Here!' has already won two awards as best science education programme of the year. In the summer term it will introduce four new programmes directly related to SATIS; one of them illustrates the theatre technology unit. Another looks at how a young designer developed a baby buggy that would convert into a car seat. It considers the parallel development of a convertible buggy by the McLaren company, now marketed as the Super Dreamer. If you use the unit your pupils could model ways of moving a range of loads in and around school.

In the Spring edition of 'Design and Technology Teaching' we shall be reproducing part of a SATIS unit on technology, together with teacher notes and advice arising from the experiences of trial schools. Do photocopy this and try it for yourself. If you would like to purchase the SATIS 8-14 materials, they will be available from the ASE Book Shop (Association for Science Education, College Lane, Hatfield, Herts. AL10 9AA) in 1992.

The first box, containing ten photocopiable books and a plastic former for your self-recorded video and audio tapes, together with a database disc in the five most commonly use formats, will cost less than £30. You will be able to buy ready recorded audio and videotapes, eventually.

If you would like to contribute to SATIS 8-14, especially if you have ideas for active learning putting science and technology into context, do contact the project at the Barclays Venture Centre, University of Warwick Science Park, Sir William Lyons Road, Coventry CV4 9EZ. We are especially interested in ideas for Key Stage 3.

SATIS projects all have a limited life span because the materials are aimed to be topical and relevant. You may already know that a new SATIS related project involving both the Association for Science Education and DATA has been set up. This new project, called 'Science with Technology' is based at the University of Bath.

The Project Director is Jim Sage. He would welcome contact from you at Science with Technology, ASE/DATA Project, University of Bath School of Education, Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AY.

