

Software Corner

We will be listing interesting resources, including software packages that are useful for exploring mathematics. We encourage you to send us examples of technology-based activities that you have found useful in engaging students to learn mathematics.

Terrapin Software's new microworld offering is the Crystal Rain Forest. Selected as the best primary school software in England in 1993, The Crystal Rain Forest teaches Logo through a progression of activities, each a natural part of the plot. Students learn to move and turn (like a turtle), estimate distances and angles, repeat patterns, change variables, and build procedures while they are learning about rain forests. Appropriate for elementary and junior high students. Available for Macintosh and MS DOS machines. Terrapin Software Inc. is located at 400 Riverside Street, Portland, ME 04103. You can phone them at 800-972-8200.

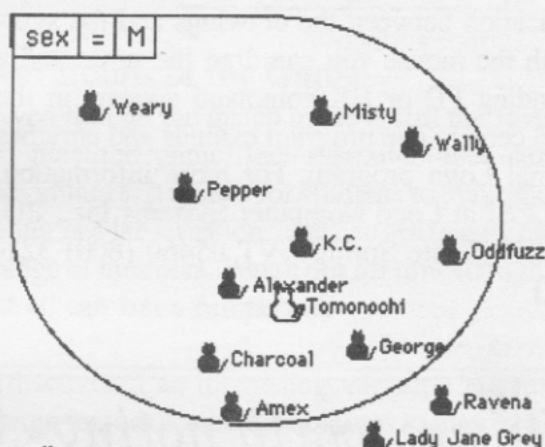
Tabletop, a new and exciting database program developed by Technical Educational Resource Center (TERC), will soon be avail-

able from Broderbund. There are two versions: Tabletop Senior for middle and high school students and Tabletop Junior for elementary students. These programs are stimulating, dynamic and well worth exploring. For more information contact Tech. Ed. Resource Center at 2067 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02140.

The Graph Club (with Fizz and Martina) from Tom Snyder Productions (Grades K-4) is a very effective and imaginative way to incorporate graphing into your curriculum. An original chapter book, *Fizz and Martina's Incredible Not-For-Profit Pet Resort Mystery*, forms the basis for 100 classroom activities. Graphing challenges are embedded in a marvelous mystery story, and students work in groups to succeed. For more information contact TSP at 800-342-0236.

The use of **spreadsheets** has much potential in helping students learn mathematics more effectively in a more informal manner. Besides using the standard application programs like **Clarisworks***, **Microsoft Works** and **Excel**, Davidson Associates has developed something called **the Cruncher** which is a spreadsheet designed for kids. It has some fun tutorials designed to help children learn about spreadsheet use. Though the programs have potential, it is not always clear how to effectively take advantage of them. (See Robert Berkman's article in the next CLIME Connections.) The *Cruncher* has some tutorials and projects built in. Bill Masalski has written *How to Use Spreadsheets as a Tool in Secondary Education* available from NCTM. The book

[Cats with fur] Tabletop 1



*Lesson plans and guidelines for teaching mathematics with spreadsheets are available from Claris Corporation. (800)-325-2747

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