

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT
BLOCK ISLAND SCHOOL

Dissection is an important and necessary part of the classroom experience in the sciences. However, the Block Island School Science Department acknowledges that some students prefer not to participate in dissection. Generally, we find that such students fall into two groups:

1. Those that object on a moral basis; and
2. Those who are simply reticent to cut, probe, and otherwise manipulate a preserved specimen.

Moral objectors are provided with a virtual dissection CD-ROM program, which covers dissections of perch, crayfish, frog, and fetal pig quite comprehensively. The program includes evaluation of the student's progress in a multiple-choice question and answer format. In addition to simple identification of part and function, the CD-ROM provides information on each specimen's natural habitat and behavior.

Those students who are simply a bit squeamish, but have no moral objection are allowed to participate in the dissection procedure as equipment manager, note taker, procedure reader, page turner, etc., while also observing the procedure. This allows a student to participate actively while at the same time enabling a non-squeamish student the freedom to work unhindered by the inconvenience of removing gloves and rinsing his/her hands every time a note needs to be taken or the manual referenced.

Adopted: February 14, 2000

New Shoreham School District, Block Island School