

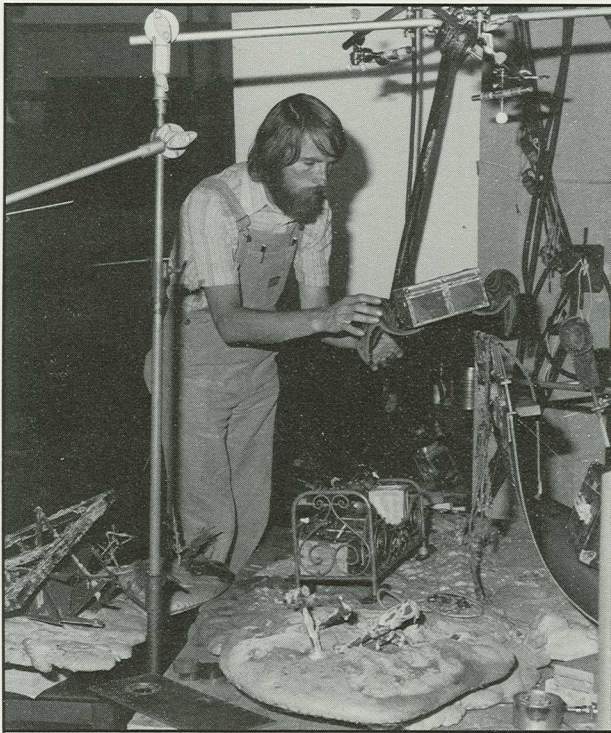


National
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THE TREASURE OF THE GROTOCEANS



Using some of the objects as hiding places, the Grotocoans manage to slip into the well-guarded caves. A rowdy party, complete with music and dancing, creates a diversion that allows them to complete their assignment.

While *The Treasure of the Grotocoans* is a delightful children's fantasy, it is also a comment about ecology. For although sea dwellers are the only living beings seen in the film, the human presence is manifest in the "treasure" the

It is quite surprising to discover what gets tossed into the sea by humans: tin cans, bottles, washing machines, television sets. However, to the Grotocoans, gentle octopus-like beings living on the ocean floor, these discards have a different use and value. They are treasures to be collected and taken to an underwater cache.

In *The Treasure of the Grotocoans*, two Grotocoans are sent on a special mission: to get into the caves where the valuables are kept and retrieve an item of particular importance. Before reaching their destination, however, they have to get past a number of hazards, not the least of which are the incredible number and variety of objects that litter the bottom of the sea.

Grotocoans find on the bottom of the sea.

To create the Grotocoans, the filmmaker cut foam rubber into the shape of octopi and then reinforced the shapes with wire. Their bright colors and particular characteristics give these little puppets a lively endearing quality that will win any audience.

Study Guide

Subject Areas:

Language Arts; Art; Values Education; Environmental Studies

Suggested Audience:

Kindergarten to Gr. VI

Content:

Through the magic of the animator's camera we visit the bottom of the sea. There we meet two small octopi who are searching for a treasure. A colony of Grotocoans, gentle creatures living in underwater caves, jealously guards this treasure. Will our two conspirators succeed in obtaining it?

This quest leads children to question the value and use given to various objects by humans. It also serves to heighten their awareness of man's effect on marine ecology.

Before Screening the Film:

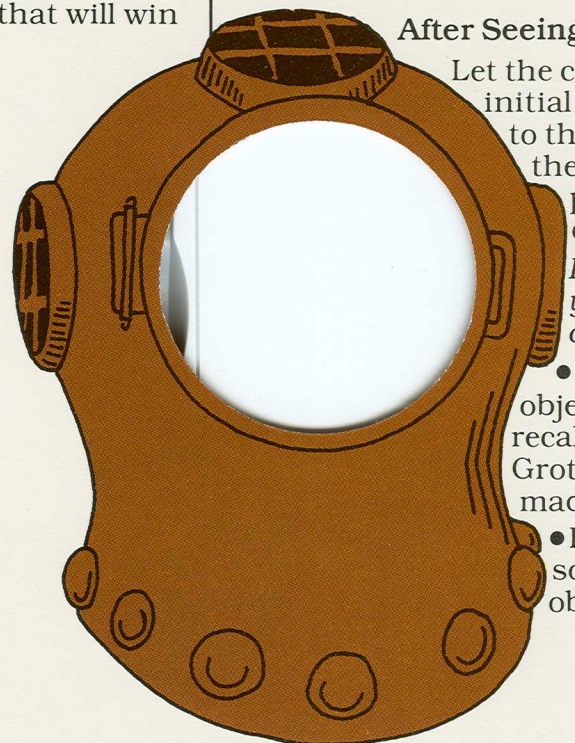
Imagine that you are a deep-sea diver. What might you see under the water?

After Seeing the Film:

Let the children's initial reactions to the film be the starting-point for discussion.

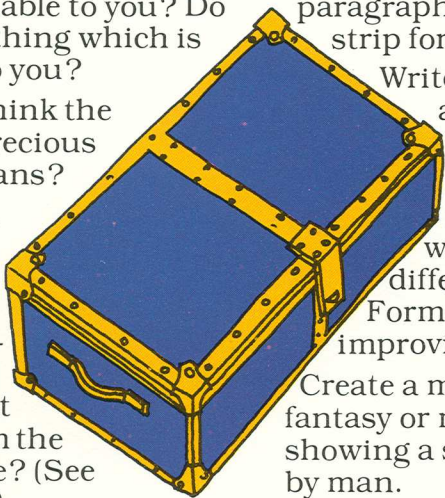
For younger children:

- How many objects can you recall which the Grotocoans made use of?
- How were some of these objects used?



For older children:

- What things are considered valuable in our society? What objects are valuable to you? Do you have something which is valuable only to you?
- Why do you think the bottle was so precious for the Grotocceans?
- If people from another planet were to visit us for the first time, what conclusions might they draw about our society from the objects we value? (See *What on Earth*)
- Discuss the causes of water pollution, its consequences and possible ways of remedying the damage that has already been done.



Other activities:

The film leaves us in suspense. Write your own ending in a paragraph or in comic strip form.

Write your own story about an object that is given a new life and use by a mysterious creature.

Explore the sounds which objects make in different surroundings. Form an "orchestra" and improvise.

Create a mural of an underwater fantasy or make a 3-D collage showing a seabed polluted by man.

Related Films:

Le Bleu Perdu

7 minutes 30 seconds, color
(106C 0272 039)

An animated film envisaging the kind of world that children may inherit when the last bit of blue is blotted from the sky by the spreading mantle of smog.

Water, water, everywhere...
4 minutes 45 seconds, color
(106C 0171 024)

An underwater close-up of the death of a fish in polluted water.

Class Project: The Garbage Movie
23 minutes 27 seconds, color
(106C 0180 068)

A class project investigates garbage, its composition, its disposal and its impact on the environment.

What on Earth!

9 minutes 35 seconds, color
(106C 0166 033)

A film which confirms what many earthlings have long feared — the automobile has inherited the earth!



Direction and Animation
Co Hoedeman

Models and Set Design
Marie Faucher
Pierre Gélinas

Editing
Lucien Marleau

Music
Normand Roger

Sound Recording
Ken Page, CFE

Recording
Louis Hone

Re-recording
Hans Peter Strobl
Adrian Croll

Producer
Gaston Sarault

Produced by
National Film Board of Canada

35 mm Color
16 mm Color
Screening Time:
15 minutes 32 seconds

Distributed by
National Film Board of Canada

35 mm: 105C 0080 061
16 mm: 106C 0080 061
Videocassette: 116C 0080 061

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