



# Science Sleuths

## Volume 1:

### The Mysteries of the Blob and the Exploding Lawnmower



#### IN A NUTSHELL

VideoDiscovery  
1700 Westlake Avenue North,  
Suite 600  
Seattle, WA 98109-3012

phone: (800) 548-3472  
(206) 285-5400  
fax: (206) 285-9245  
website: www.videodiscovery.com

**Cost:** \$59.00

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#### SUBJECTS

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Language Arts  
Mathematics  
Science

This is the first of a two-volume series of mysteries that combine life, earth and physical science concepts with a variety of problem solving techniques. The mysteries are real-life puzzles involving biological, chemical, physical and ecological principles. Each mystery has six different solutions that become more intricate as students progress. Students record and edit information in their electronic notebook, then print reports for assessment by a teacher. Solution times vary from twenty minutes to several class periods. The material exists in CD-ROM or laserdisc and includes video interviews, stills, graphs, tables, maps, charts, an electronic notebook and interactive on-screen tools. Materials also include challenge worksheets, glossary, encyclopedia and crossword puzzles.

**Grade Level**  
6-9

**Length**  
CD-ROM

**Date Published**  
1995

\*Note: Materials available in Macintosh-CD or Windows-CD.

**THE** BOTTOM  
LINE

“Very effective problem-solving strategies!  
Strongly presents science exploration in a  
very interesting format.”

What the REVIEWERS Said !	Key Characteristics	Strengths Noted	Other Considerations
	Fairness and Accuracy	Data is from identified, current sources. Encourages exploration. Presents numerous viewpoints.	Characters represent stereotypes.
	Depth	Students able to explore complexities of issues.	
	Emphasis on Skills Building	Uses research skills, critical thinking, observation and data analysis. Requires learners to listen to all sides of an issue.	
	Action Orientation	Not Applicable.	
	Instructional Soundness	Lists clear goals and objectives. Provides self-assessment and assessment software for teacher. Highly interactive.	Little connection to everyday life. Student answers must correspond with the letter or program answers or are counted as wrong.
	Usability	Has a logical layout and a high-quality interface. Can be adapted to different levels. Technical assistance is available via a toll-free number.	

“Uses many tools students may be unfamiliar with - like melting a substance to test it... More scientifically based but the two mysteries are environmental problems.”

“Materials are clearly written and highly motivational.”