

Practical Uses of Math And Science (PUMAS)

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Although many scientists are eager to contribute to pre-college education, finding appropriate and effective ways of doing so is not always easy. For example, to develop a curriculum requires a huge time commitment, and in some cases, special training. PUMAS offers one relatively simple and very effective way to contribute.

PUMAS (**poo' • mas**), is an on-line journal -- a growing collection of one-page examples illustrating how math and science topics taught in K-12 classes can be used in interesting settings, including everyday life. Examples may be activities, anecdotes, descriptions of "neat ideas," formal exercises, puzzles, or demonstrations. They are written primarily by scientists, and are intended to help teachers enrich their presentation of math and science topics.

PUMAS examples may be written in any style that serves the material well. All examples are peer-reviewed by at least one scientist with a relevant background, and at least one teacher at an appropriate grade level. Once accepted, the example is a citable reference that can be included in your curriculum vita.

Users can search the PUMAS collection for relevant examples, and may then develop ideas of their own about how to use the material in the classroom. This puts the job of "integration into the lesson plan" on the teacher, who is in the best position to judge the students' needs, abilities, and interests.

Interested in participating? You might have a look at the examples already in the PUMAS collection. We need scientists, as well as teachers at all grade levels, to volunteer for the pool of PUMAS reviewers. And we are always looking for good examples of the Practical Uses of Math And Science.

The PUMAS Web Site: <http://pumas.jpl.nasa.gov>

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