

Thanks to new technologies, today we can offer new generations more possibilities for playing and learning. Mediúscula, mitjans educatius aims to participate in the shared effort to develop high-quality educational products that use new technologies as a means of teaching and learning.

Mediúscula, mitjans educatius presents the project Moles, which integrates traditional media with technological media in order to encourage creativity among boys and girls.

This first title in the Idea Collection aims to overcome the stereotypes that associate interactive multimedia materials with mechanical, repetitive activities that foster passivity and isolation. It offers children's imaginations a varied and entertaining series of resources of high educational quality that promote activity and communication.

We aim to meet the expectations of young people and adults in today's communication and information society and offer a wide variety of resources to encourage new generations to read, think, play, create and sing.

Target audience

Moles is designed for boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 12. It can be used both at home and in school.

It does not require installation or prior computer experience. The interface is clear and intuitive,

and guidelines for action are offered throughout the various processes.

It offers different interpretations and ways of using the resources depending on each child's level of maturity and knowledge. Three levels of increasing difficulty are presented to differentiate the activities that require different educational treatment.

At home, children and their families can explore the various possibilities that the project offers. In the printable resource guide, parents will find guidelines for activities they can do with their children.



At school, students can share experiences and activities. In the printable resource guide, teachers will find methodological guidance for applying the project in the classroom.

Languages

Moles is available in Spanish, Catalan and English.

Objectives

- To promote a taste for reading, writing and acting out stories.
- To develop imagination and creativity through games and songs.
- To encourage philosophical reflection and the exchange of ideas.
- To foster communication among children and between children and adults.
- To introduce children to computers and basic text- and image-editing software.



Characteristics of the story

Moles is based on a story that revolves around a young mole named Plato. He lives in a burrow

with his parents. He is a restless, curious and thoughtful soul. The light that penetrates the entrance to the burrow is a major source of attraction and fascination for Plato. In defiance of the advice and warnings of his family, he finally decides to venture into the outside world to see what there is to see.



The story was inspired by the Greek philosopher Plato's "Myth of the Cave". Children are invited to develop their capacity to create, imagine and reflect.



Style and graphic design of the project

Moles stands out for its attractiveness, coherence, balance and rigorous graphic design. Its components are designed with clear visual unity and characterised by their simplicity and directness.

The illustrations are suggestive, warm and expressive. They are filled with hidden poetic messages that stir the imagination of boys and girls.



The digital version of the story offers a large amount of visual information organised and structured in three sub-screens in order to spark the interest, curiosity and mental activity of the children using it. The plot unfolds in these three sections at the same time. The various characters that come and go in the different sections facilitate comprehension of the story and offer an interesting and age-appropriate exercise in image interpretation.

Components

The various components of Moles are presented in a pack that includes a book, a CD-ROM, a theatre, and the corresponding scenes and puppets. All of these elements are related and make up a solid, structured whole. They are designed to encourage young people to engage in activities and communicative exchanges with the people around them.

- The book presents a tale with a poetic and philosophical undercurrent that recreates a world open to imagination and reflection. It tells the story of Plato the mole—a story filled with magic and mystery that requires intense intellectual activity on the part of the reader.



- The CD-ROM presents an animated version of the story that includes games and songs. The interface is intuitive and clear. The educational options included in the CD-ROM are organised in three sections: "Editor", "Theatre" and "Music".

The "Editor" section allows boys and girls to invent and write their own stories using a word processor and images designed for beginners. Thus, children will become familiar with the basic functions of programs of this type in a guided, progressive and enjoyable manner. It is easy to use and designed to ensure that children feel that they are being accompanied at all times. It is an open and flexible instrument that can be adapted to each child's level of maturity.



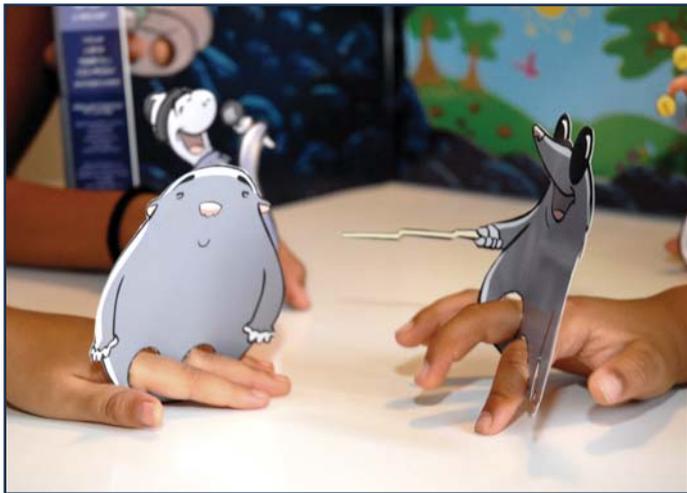
The "Theatre" section offers children the chance to act out their own stories and make the elements they need to perform them onstage. In the menu, they will find suggestions and guidelines for activities: "Find inspiration", "Meet the characters", "Design the set" and

"Promote your play".



The "Music" section gives them the chance to sing along with an animated movie individually or in a group. A basic karaoke program shows the lyrics to the songs. Through the options "You and me", "You or me" and "You" children can choose whether to sing solo or with friends.





• The theatre offers numerous educational, communicative and collaborative possibilities. In the "Theatre" section of the CD-ROM, boys

and girls will find the resources they need to perform their play and apply the elements of the set that they have created.

- The scenes and puppets found inside the pack allow children to recreate various environments and characters.

Moles provides boys and girls with appropriate material for discovering the joys of reading, writing and acting out their own stories. It offers adults guidelines for accompanying children in the creative process.

Structure

STORY	BOOK Illustrated story	CD-ROM Animated story	
GAMES	EDITOR Single author Multiple authors Unfinished story Crazy story	THEATRE Find inspiration Meet the characters Design the set Promote your play	MUSIC You and me You or me You
PRINTABLES	FOR CHILDREN Nivel A (de 6 a 8 años) Nivel B (de 8 a 10 años) Nivel C (de 10 a 12 años)	FOR ADULTS Project presentation Orientaciones para padres y profesores Ayudas para la navegación	
THEATRE	SETS Plato's burrow Outside, night-time Outside, daytime	PUPPETS Plato Plato's mother Plato's father Alpha, Beta and Gamma	

Technical specifications

The book and CD-ROM are presented in a cardboard box that unfolds to serve as a theatre. Inside the box, you will find the scenes and characters needed to act out the story. The back of the package shows graphics and texts that explain the features of the product.



Technical characteristics of the CD-ROM:

The CD-ROM runs automatically. Previous installation is not required.

The interface is simple, controlled, intuitive and flexible. The different features of the product can be reached from the main page.

- It is simple: users reach the information they are looking for in just a few steps, and always know how to exit the program.
- It is controlled: users always know where they are with respect to the overall program.
- It is intuitive: users don't need extra help to navigate the program.

- It is flexible: users can take shortcuts to get to the information that interests them.

Minimum requirements:

- Windows operating system (versions 98, ME, 2000, XP+)
Internet Explorer 6.0+
Flash plug-in
Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Linux operating system
Distribution: LinEx GNU/Linux and Guadalinex-edu
Debian, Mozilla or compatible
Flash Player plug-in 7.0 for Linux
Advanced Linux Sound Architecture (ALSA)
Kernel Sources 2.4 x
Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Hardware requirements:
1000 MHz Pentium III processor or greater
256 MB of RAM
CD-ROM 48x
Sound card