Biology – starting from scratch

Aim:
to encourage students starting biology in year 5 who have NOT done science

Method:
Prepare, use and then evaluate usefulness of a starter booklet/workbook.

What happened?
most students used booklet in September or as they joined class and kept it as a reference

Useful websites
www.nbsstralee.ie  www.juniorscience.ie
www.skool.ie  www.examinations.ie
www.scoilnet.ie  www.slss.ie
www.education.ie
www.bbc.co.uk/learning/subjects/

What the students thought?
all but one found it a LITTLE or VERY HELPFUL
Positive points: introduction… readable… informative… summaries… descriptive… diagrams…
Suggestions for improvement: more FUN, easier language, bigger diagrams, give ANSWERS!
Presentation: BIGGER diagrams, COLOUR

What the teacher thought?
SUCCESSFUL
overall, definitely worth while
• needs to be more VISUAL LABELS on BIGGER diagrams
• in COLOUR… more INTERACTIVE?
• more SPACED OUT with spaces for student answers
• useful too with INTERNATIONAL students