

Kids' WB! – Fall 07/08

“MAGI-NATION”
STATEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL MISSION

Miki Baumgarten, Ph.D.
December 2006

TARGET AUDIENCE:

The target audience for “Magi Nation” is made up of seven to twelve year-old boys and girls across a broad spectrum of racial, ethnic, and socio-economic categories. The level of educational content is varied so as to be meaningful to youngsters throughout the age range – challenging younger viewers and reinforcing learning for older ones.

GENERAL EDUCATIONAL GOAL AND RATIONALE:

For young people today, new information is generally no more than a mouse-click away. Knowledge is readily there for the taking if kids simply know how to appropriately access it and effectively make use of it. In this context, many of the most useful and important things that youngsters can learn center on discovery, analysis and problem-solving -- how do kids get the “right” information and make proper use of it. What questions should be asked? How does one assess veracity? How does one weigh alternatives? How are decisions best arrived at? How does one decide when aims can be accomplished independently, and if help is needed, how does one go about enlisting support? Above all, how can goals be achieved ethically and with regard to the greater good.

In an enticing new world filled with excitement, mystery, and danger, “Magi Nation” addresses these vital learning goals. Tony, Edyn and Strag along with their human and decidedly non-human colleagues model their successful, and sometimes less than successful, attempts to analyze difficult situations, set appropriate goals, and creatively seek solutions to the dire dilemmas in which they find themselves.

In the course of a series of intriguing codes, riddles and other puzzles that Tony, Edyn and Strag are presented with along the way, viewers are furthermore given the engaging opportunity to not only observe others go through the problem solving cycle, but to make use of their unique

knowledge base and burgeoning problem solving skills to address conundrums on their own.

SPECIFIC EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES:

- To help viewers learn to thoughtfully assess situations and logically set appropriate and responsible goals.
- To aid viewers to develop techniques associated with critical thinking and creativity in decision-making and problem solving with which to act.
- To encourage viewers to attain the independence and initiative to act on what is ethically right, and the determination and persistence to carry their aims through to fruition – even in the face of opposition.
- To teach viewers to accept and appreciate unique abilities and insights in themselves and others, and to employ teamwork to capitalize on individual strengths and overcome individual weaknesses.
- To encourage viewers to assimilate positive personal qualities, prosocial behaviors and life skills intended to better equip them to take responsible and functional roles within their environment.
- To increase viewers' core knowledge base and appreciation of the world around us by presenting information across a range of academic areas, including mathematics, language, earth science, ecology, botany, geography and meteorology.

EDUCATIONAL FORMAT:

The general learning goal and discrete educational objectives are fully integrated with the story-line, characters and settings that make up “Magi Nation.” By focusing on the thrilling adventures of Tony, Edyn and Strag and the other forces for good in their battle with evil, the series provides young viewers with a non-threatening arena from which to observe and learn from the actions of others. Learning is attractive, natural and becomes part of the overall excitement of the series.