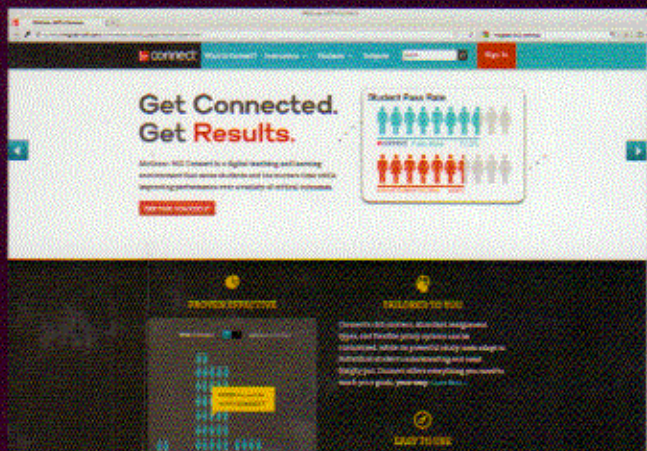


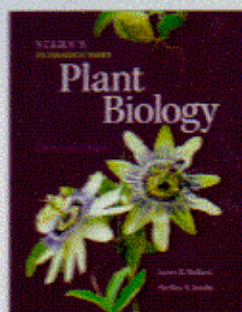
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ABOUT THE COVER

Among the hundreds of species known as "passion flower," the blue crown passion flower (*Passiflora caerulea*) pictured on the cover of this book is one of the most well known. The outermost whorl shows five sepals and five petals similar in appearance, surrounding a ring of bluish purple filaments, within which are five greenish stamens that encircle three purple stigmas at the center of the flower. The flower, which is about 10 centimeters in diameter, develops into an orange-yellow fruit about half the size, which can be eaten,

although the taste is rather bland. The flower can also be eaten, and is sometimes used as a garnish for deserts and salads. As the national flower of Paraguay, *P. caerulea* can be found throughout the country, as well as southern Brazil and Argentina, where it is native. The flower has become quite popular for its beauty throughout the world and can be grown easily in many climates. The specimen pictured on the cover was photographed during August in the United Kingdom.

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