2010 Social Studies Summer Review Institute

Teacher Perspective Textbook Critique

Local school boards may also want to consider other criteria to meet the needs of their student population.
All teachers that reviewed this material are highly qualified in their specific field in education.

Textbook Title: *The New Mexico Journey.*
Publisher: Gibbs Smith
Grade Level: Mid-School
ISBN No. Teacher Edition: 978142361606
ISBN No. Student Edition: 978142361605

TEXTBOOK ORGANIZATION

The teacher edition was very teacher friendly and teacher oriented. The teacher resource was well defined with a sufficient amount of materials. The student projects seem fun and created with a high level of student interest. The NM Standards are well defined, noted, and identified throughout the text. They are noted lesson to lesson and chapter to chapter. Lessons are clear with easy to follow suggestions for teachers. The Differentiated Instruction component is well written and applicable providing good opportunities for all-student engagement.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT SUPPORT

Questions for students at the end of each chapter is formatted in Know-Apply-Analyze repeated manner but following Bloom's Taxonomy. There are sufficient Test Prep opportunities for students. Well defined project based activities are available as are technology/website locations providing relevant learning opportunities. The "Link to the Past" feature would be beneficial to students as it helps them make connections and increases their level of understanding. Differentiated Learning allows for all students to be engaged.

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

Pictures and graphics are beautifully illustrated. The book has visual appeal which enhances content learning. This text does an excellent job of integrating economics into the content. It also includes civics and government on all levels: tribal, state, local, and national.

ADDITIONAL TEACHER COMMENTS

FM (Grade 7): Concise but effective degree of information for this grade level. Very well organized and easy to read without being too simple. Repetition of skills (Know-Apply-Analyze) on the review page per chapter provides good foundation for students learning to use a history text.

JD (Grades 6 & 8): Finally, a beautifully written and illustrated book on New Mexico history. It follows NM standards to a tee. It also does an excellent jobat examining New Mexico on all levels from small New Mexico communities to New Mexico's role as a part of the United States.

LW (Grades 3 & 4): This is the book to teach NM standards! It is organized to be teacher friendly and covers all content areas in standards.