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: *America: History of Our Nation (Beginnings Through 1877*
Publisher: Prentice Hall
Grade Level: 8
ISBN No. Teacher Edition: 9780132525497
ISBN No. Student Edition: 9780132525480

TEXTBOOK ORGANIZATION

This textbook is very well-organized. The teacher edition has step-by-step instructions on lessons for each chapter. It has excellent teacher resources for differentiated instruction including specific strategies for ELL, gifted and less proficient readers. It includes a section that specifically addresses the standards related to New Mexico history and how it relates to the history of the United States. It also has a section that fully correlates the New Mexico Content Standards and Benchmarks to the text with citations indicating where in the text the standard is addressed.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT SUPPORT

This textbook includes excellent higher level critical thinking activities as well as before, during, and after activities throughout. It has excellent and varied assessment tools. It even includes an online formative assessment including suggestions for remediation. It addresses all levels of Bloom's Taxonomy in its assessment and skills-building throughout.

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

The graphics and visual support is excellent throughout this textbook. It ties United States history to that of New Mexico throughout the book. It includes excellent suggestions for project-based activities in each chapter. It frequently uses primary sources that includes document-based questions. It also includes handbooks within the textbook itself that develops geography, economics and civics skills. Finally, the readability seems very appropriate for 8th grade.

ADDITIONAL TEACHER COMMENTS

- Readability level is perfect for middle school and the material is extremely well-written and put into a context students can understand and be interested in. Format and organization are very teacher friendly and having the standards listed is wonderful. LW: Grades 3 & 4
- This textbook is very interesting. It has a high interest level and is quite informative. Each lesson is well-supported by publisher provided materials. High level of questions appeal to teachers and will benefit students. Each lesson is provided with a list of New Mexico Content Standards which makes lesson planning clear and easy. FM: Grade 7
- This text has it all. It is very comprehensive on all levels. It is extremely well-organized and loaded with strategies to aide both the teacher and student. I especially like the full correlation to New Mexico Standards and Benchmarks with each cited in the text. This is especially helpful. JD: Grades 6 & 8