

2018 Instructional Material Summer Review Institute
Grade K-12: Science Instructional Material
Review Team Appraisal of Title – K-12 Science Education

This information is provided for local school boards and governing authorities of charter schools to consider in their selection process to meet the needs of their student population.

Text Title:	Building Blocks of Science 3D Grade K	Publisher:	Carolina Biological Supply Company
Course:	Science	Grade Level:	Kindergarten
SE ISBN:	9781435021143	TE ISBN:	9781435021143
SW ISBN:			

SECTION 1 – NM Content Standards, Benchmarks and Performance Standards

Reviewer # and Section 1 Total: #10 TOTAL 92% #11 TOTAL 97% #12 TOTAL 91%
Average Score: 93%

Review Team Assessment of material’s compliance with Section 1:

Overall, these materials met all of the NM STEM Ready standards. There was a good balance of Bloom’s Taxonomy with a majority of work falling in analyzing and evaluating skills. These materials were very user friendly! It covers the DCIs, SEPs and CCCs thoroughly. Online simulations are simple and tied to the investigation, demonstrating key points. There are many opportunities for students to share with each other throughout the entire investigation. Students are given multiple opportunities to problem solve using engineering skills. Each unit ends with a culminating activity that allows students to design and create a model or solution proving they have learned the standard. The progression of the units provides scaffolding for the standards to ensure optimal student success. Online simulations provided students opportunities to manipulate different factors when exploring phenomena. The teacher is given multiple questions to guide students in their scientific thinking (engages higher order thinking). The vocabulary is scientifically accurate but may be challenging for kindergarteners.

SECTION 2 Publisher’s Criteria

Reviewer # and Section 2 Total: 1. #10 TOTAL 96% 2. #11 TOTAL 88% 3. #12 TOTAL 96%
Average Score: 93%

Review Team Assessment of material’s compliance with Section 2:

These materials offered a variety of benefits and met many criteria. Building Blocks is multidisciplinary covering reading, writing and math. As well, it progressed nicely, offered scaffolding, ELL strategies and many different types of assessments. There were multiple opportunities for students to explore and investigate the various Science standards. The student reader is minimal which allows for more evaluating and practicing science rather than just reading about it. Classroom management will be key because the investigations require many materials and movement among students.

Reviewer Comments

Reviewer #: 10 Reviewer Background: Level III Elementary teacher with 13 years of experience in grades K-4.
Comments: This appeared to be a very thorough Science unit for the kindergarten level. Each lesson built on the previous lesson taught and provided the teacher several opportunities to differentiate instruction. The questions the teacher poses to the students were thought out and provided much needed scaffolding for primary students.

Reviewer #: 11 Reviewer Background: Level III Elementary teacher of 18 years with a Master’s in Education. Have taught 1st – 5th grade and gifted education (elementary level).
Comments: I recommend this unit for the kindergarten level. The activities seem engaging and support the NGSS. There was a clear structure and this unit will cover so much (all the science plus ELA & Math)!

Reviewer #: 12 Reviewer Background: Level II Elementary Teacher with 20 years in the classroom. I have taught 3-5 grades and technology, grades k-5.

Comments: I highly recommend the materials for the Kindergarten level. The teacher's guide was well-organized; there were connections to previous lessons built throughout it, as well as differentiation strategies suggested. All the activities were hands-on and very well explained.

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Text Title:	Building Blocks of Science 3D Grade 1	Publisher:	Carolina Biological Supply Company
Course:	Science	Grade Level:	1
SE ISBN:	9781435021723	TE ISBN:	9781435021723
SW ISBN:			

SECTION 1 – NM Content Standards, Benchmarks and Performance Standards

Reviewer # and Section 1 Total: #10 TOTAL 98% #11 TOTAL 95% #12 TOTAL 92%
Average Score: 95%

Review Team Assessment of material’s compliance with Section 1:
Overall, these materials met all of the NM STEM Ready standards. The New Mexico specific standard for first grade was not found. There was a good balance of Bloom’s Taxonomy with a majority of work falling in analyzing, evaluating and creating skills. These materials were very user friendly! It covers the DCIs, SEPs and CCCs thoroughly. Online simulations provided students opportunities to manipulate different factors when exploring phenomena. There are many opportunities for students to share with each other throughout the entire investigation. Students are given multiple opportunities to problem solve using engineering skills. Each unit ends with a culminating activity that allows students to design and create a model or solution proving they have learned the standard. The progression of the units provides scaffolding for the standards to ensure optimal student success. Online simulations provided students opportunities to manipulate different factors when exploring phenomena. The teacher is given multiple questions to guide students in their scientific thinking (engages higher order thinking). The vocabulary is scientifically accurate but may be challenging for first graders.

SECTION 2 Publisher’s Criteria

Reviewer # and Section 2 Total: #10 TOTAL 92% #11 TOTAL 88% #12 TOTAL 85%
Average Score: 88%

Review Team Assessment of material’s compliance with Section 2:
These materials offered a variety of benefits and met many criteria. Building Blocks is multidisciplinary covering reading, writing and math. As well, it progressed nicely, offered scaffolding, ELL strategies and many different types of assessments. There were multiple opportunities for students to explore and investigate the various Science standards. The student reader is minimal which allows for more evaluating and practicing science rather than just reading about it. Classroom management will be key because the investigations require many materials and movement among students.

Reviewer Comments

Reviewer #: 10 Reviewer Background: Level III Elementary teacher with 13 years of experience in grades K-4.
Comments: This program continues to scaffold nicely. The vocabulary is definitely advanced, but the lessons include grade level appropriate tasks to complete with your students so that the vocabulary can be understood.

Reviewer #: 11 Reviewer Background: Level III Elementary teacher of 18 years with a Master’s in Education. Have taught 1st – 5th grade and gifted education (elementary level).
Comments: I recommend this unit for first grade. The vocabulary is rich, the activities are highly involved and the lessons spiral very nicely in the course of a year. The hands on portion requires flexibility and creativity. Prepare to be energized!

Reviewer #: 12 Reviewer Background: Level II Elementary Teacher with 20 years in the classroom. I have taught 3-5 grades and technology, grades k-5.
Comments: This program offers many hands-on activities that support all learners. The student books and literacy articles offer students the opportunity to advance their reading and vocabulary. The student activity sheets and journal are right on grade level for first grade, allowing most students to complete them with little support.

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Text Title:	Building Blocks of Science 3D Grade 2	Publisher:	Carolina Biological Supply Company
Course:	Science	Grade Level:	2
SE ISBN:	9781435021730	TE ISBN:	9781435021730
SW ISBN:			

SECTION 1 – NM Content Standards, Benchmarks and Performance Standards

Reviewer # and Section 1 Total: #10 TOTAL 89% #11 TOTAL 92% #12 TOTAL 90%
Average Score: 90%

Review Team Assessment of material’s compliance with Section 1: Overall, these materials met all of the NM STEM Ready standards. There was a good balance of Bloom’s Taxonomy with a majority of work falling in analyzing and evaluating. These materials were very user friendly! It covers the DCIs, SEPs and CCCs thoroughly. Online simulations provided students opportunities to manipulate different factors when exploring phenomena. There are many opportunities for students to share with each other throughout the entire investigation. Students are given multiple opportunities to problem solve using engineering skills. Each unit ends with a culminating activity that allows students to design and create a model or solution proving they have learned the standard. The progression of the units provides scaffolding for the standards to ensure optimal student success. The teacher is given multiple questions to guide students in their scientific thinking (engages higher order thinking).

SECTION 2 Publisher’s Criteria

Reviewer # and Section 2 Total: #10 TOTAL 96% #11 TOTAL 88% #12 TOTAL 92%
Average Score: 92%

Review Team Assessment of material’s compliance with Section 2: These materials offered a variety of benefits and met many criteria. Building Blocks is multidisciplinary covering reading, writing and some math. As well, it progressed nicely, offered scaffolding, ELL strategies and many different types of assessments. There were many opportunities for students to explore and investigate the various Science standards. The student reader is minimal which allows for more evaluating and practicing science rather than just reading about it.

Reviewer Comments

Reviewer #: 10 Reviewer Background: Level III Elementary teacher with 13 years of experience in grades K-4.
Comments: I found that students were prompted to recognize the limitations of a classroom model. I liked this. I also felt that incorporating complex structures such as the Egyptian pyramids, and breaking them down into simpler structures, was effective at showing students how even people from long ago used Science to solve problems.

Reviewer #: 11 Reviewer Background: Level III Elementary teacher of 18 years with a Master’s in Education. Have taught 1st – 5th grade and gifted education (elementary level).
Comments: I recommend this unit for second grade. The vocabulary matches with previous years, the activities require scientific thinking and the lessons spiral very nicely in the course of a year. The culminating projects will give students a chance to shine and practice creativity.

Reviewer #: 12 Reviewer Background: Level II Elementary Teacher with 20 years in the classroom. I have taught 3-5 grades and technology, grades k-5.
Comments: This program offers many hands-on activities that support all learners. They offer very interesting and varied investigations to engage all learners. The students will have fun as they are learning and practicing science. The student books and literacy articles offer students the opportunity to practice their reading and vocabulary at grade level. The student activity sheets are right on grade level for second grade, allowing most students to complete them with little support.

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Text Title:	Building Blocks of Science 3D Grade 3	Publisher:	Carolina Biological Supply Company
Course:	Science	Grade Level:	3
SE ISBN:	9781435021747	TE ISBN:	9781435021747
SW ISBN:			

SECTION 1 – NM Content Standards, Benchmarks and Performance Standards

Reviewer # and Section 1 Total: #10 TOTAL 94% #11 TOTAL 93% #12 TOTAL 90%
Average Score: 92%

Review Team Assessment of material’s compliance with Section 1: Overall, these materials met all of the NM STEM Ready standards. There was a good balance of Bloom’s Taxonomy with a majority of work falling in analyzing and evaluating. These materials were very user friendly! It covers the DCIs, SEPs and CCCs thoroughly. Online simulations provided students opportunities to manipulate different factors when exploring phenomena. There are many opportunities for students to share with each other throughout the entire investigation. Students are given multiple opportunities to problem solve using engineering skills. Each unit ends with a culminating activity that allows students to design and create a model or solution proving they have learned the standard. The progression of the units provides scaffolding for the standards to ensure optimal student success. Students are given multiple opportunities to look for and identify patterns found naturally in the world. The teacher is given multiple questions to guide students in their scientific thinking (engages higher order thinking). Students are being treated more like scientists starting in third grade and taking an active role in their learning.

SECTION 2 Publisher’s Criteria

Reviewer # and Section 2 Total: #10 TOTAL 88% #11 TOTAL 88% #12 TOTAL 92%
Average Score: 89%

Review Team Assessment of material’s compliance with Section 2: These materials offered a variety of benefits and met many criteria. Building Blocks is multidisciplinary covering reading, writing and some math. As well, it progressed nicely, offered scaffolding, ELL strategies and many different types of assessments. There were many opportunities for students to explore and investigate the various Science standards. The student reader is minimal which allows for more evaluating and practicing science rather than just reading about it.

Reviewer Comments

Reviewer #: 10 Reviewer Background: Level III Elementary teacher with 13 years of experience in grades K-4.
Comments: In order to fully understand most investigations, it is important to look at the Student Investigation Sheets. This will give the educator a better idea of what the students need to do in order to be successful and meet the criteria. The investigations are thorough and occur in a matter that makes sense to each topic.

Reviewer #: 11 Reviewer Background: Level III Elementary teacher of 18 years with a Master’s in Education. Have taught 1st – 5th grade and gifted education (elementary level).
Comments: I recommend this unit for third grade. The vocabulary builds with previous years, the activities require scientific thinking and the lessons spiral very nicely in the course of a year. The investigations at the core of this curriculum are engaging and educational. I also really like the side notes for teaching tips, digital tips and differentiation strategies!

Reviewer #: 12 Reviewer Background: Level II Elementary Teacher with 20 years in the classroom. I have taught 3-5 grades and technology, grades k-5.
Comments: This program offers many hands-on activities that support all learners. They offer very engaging, interesting, and varied investigations to engage all learners. There is more than enough material and activities to engage the students for the entire school year. The student activities and supporting activity sheets are engaging and will challenge most students in their scientific practice.

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Text Title:	<u>Building Blocks of Science 3D Grade 4</u>	Publisher:	<u>Carolina Biological Supply Company</u>
Course:	<u>Science</u>	Grade Level:	<u>4</u>
SE ISBN:	<u>9781435021754</u>	TE ISBN:	<u>9781435021754</u>
SW ISBN:			

SECTION 1 – NM Content Standards, Benchmarks and Performance Standards

Reviewer # and Section 1 Total: #10 TOTAL 94% #11 TOTAL 93% #12 TOTAL 96%
Average Score: 94%

Review Team Assessment of material’s compliance with Section 1:

Overall, these materials met all of the NM STEM Ready standards. There was a good balance of Bloom’s Taxonomy with a majority of work falling in analyzing and evaluating. These materials were very user friendly! It covers the DCIs, SEPs and CCCs thoroughly. Online simulations provided students opportunities to manipulate different factors when exploring phenomena. There are many opportunities for students to share with each other throughout the entire investigation. Students are given multiple opportunities to problem solve using engineering skills. Each unit ends with a culminating activity that allows students to design and create a model or solution proving they have learned the standard. The progression of the units provides scaffolding for the standards to ensure optimal student success. Students are given multiple opportunities to look for and identify patterns found naturally in the world. The teacher is given multiple questions to guide students in their scientific thinking (engages higher order thinking). Students continue to be treated more like scientists rather than consumers, taking an active role in their learning. Students are generating their own data regularly to serve as evidence or explanations of phenomenon. The majority of the learning is hands-on investigations; there is minimal student text, but what is provided is right on grade level.

SECTION 2 Publisher’s Criteria

Reviewer # and Section 2 Total: #10 TOTAL 100% #11 TOTAL 81% #12 TOTAL 85%
Average Score: 89%

Review Team Assessment of material’s compliance with Section 2: These materials offered a variety of benefits and met many criteria. Building Blocks is multidisciplinary covering reading, writing and some math. As well, it progressed nicely, offered scaffolding, ELL strategies and many different types of assessments. There were many opportunities for students to explore and investigate the various Science standards. The student reader is minimal which allows for more evaluating and practicing science rather than just reading about it.

Reviewer Comments

Reviewer #: 10 Reviewer Background: Level III Elementary teacher with 13 years of experience in grades K-4.
Comments: In order to fully understand most investigations, it is important to continue to look at the Student Investigation Sheets. This will give the educator a better idea of what the students need to do in order to be successful and meet the criteria. My favorite piece of the investigations involves actual student and teacher dissections. This provides hands on experiences that are not often a part of many 4th grade Science curriculum.

Reviewer #: 11 Reviewer Background: Level III Elementary teacher of 18 years with a Master’s in Education. Have taught 1st – 5th grade and gifted education (elementary level).
Comments: I recommend this unit for fourth grade. The only concern is the depth of the Energy Works unit. It seems like it may be difficult to accomplish everything in that unit along with everything else teachers are required to cover.

Reviewer #: 12 Reviewer Background: Level II Elementary Teacher with 20 years in the classroom. I have taught 3-5 grades and technology, grades k-5.
Comments: This program offers many hands-on activities that support all learners. They offer very interesting and varied investigations to engage all learners, including the opportunity to participate in 3 dissections. There is more than enough material and activities to engage the students for the entire school year. The student activities and supporting activity sheets are engaging and will challenge most students in their scientific practice.

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Text Title:	Building Blocks of Science 3D Grade 5	Publisher:	Carolina Biological Supply Company
Course:	Science	Grade Level:	5
SE ISBN:	9781435021761	TE ISBN:	9781435021761
SW ISBN:			

SECTION 1 – NM Content Standards, Benchmarks and Performance Standards

Reviewer # and Section 1 Total: #10 TOTAL 91% #11 TOTAL 91% #12 TOTAL 95%
Average Score: 92%

Review Team Assessment of material’s compliance with Section 1:
Overall, these materials met all of the NM STEM Ready standards. (The New Mexico 5th grade specific PE was not found in the material provided.) There was a good balance of Bloom’s Taxonomy with a majority of work falling in analyzing and evaluating. These materials were very user friendly! It covers the DCIs, SEPs and CCCs thoroughly. Online simulations provide students opportunities to manipulate different factors when exploring phenomena. There are many opportunities for students to share with each other throughout the entire investigation. Students are given multiple opportunities to problem solve using engineering skills. Each unit ends with a culminating activity that allows students to design and create a model or solution proving they have learned the standard. The progression of the units provides scaffolding for the standards to ensure optimal student success. Students are given multiple opportunities to look for and identify patterns found naturally in the world. The teacher is given multiple questions to guide students in their scientific thinking (engages higher order thinking). Students continue to be treated more like scientists rather than consumers, taking an active role in their learning. Students are generating their own data regularly to serve as evidence or explanations of phenomena. The majority of the learning is hands-on investigations; there is minimal student text, but what is provided is right on grade level. Peers regularly collaborate and share with each other models, processes, and solutions to problems posed throughout the investigations. Students are required to cite evidence to support their claims routinely as well.

SECTION 2 Publisher’s Criteria

Reviewer # and Section 2 Total: #10 TOTAL 93% #11 TOTAL 89% #12 TOTAL 89%
Average Score: 90%

Review Team Assessment of material’s compliance with Section 2:
These materials offer a variety of benefits and meet many criteria. Building Blocks is multidisciplinary, covering reading, writing and some math. As well, it progresses nicely, offering scaffolding, ELL strategies and many different types of assessments. There are many opportunities for students to explore and investigate the various Science standards. The student reader is minimal which allows for more evaluating and practicing science rather than just reading about it.

Reviewer Comments

Reviewer #: 10 Reviewer Background: Level III Elementary teacher with 13 years of experience in grades K-4.
Comments: In 5th grade students are given forms to evaluate each other’s work. The reflection provides students the opportunity to not only reflect on other students’ learning, but their learning as well. At the end of every lesson, students were presenting a project or model to their peers.

Reviewer #: 11 Reviewer Background: Level III Elementary teacher of 18 years with a Master’s in Education. Have taught 1st – 5th grade and gifted education (elementary level).

Comments: I recommend this unit for fifth grade. The vocabulary builds with previous years, the activities require scientific thinking and the lessons spiral very nicely in the course of a year. The investigations at the core of this curriculum are engaging and educational. I also really like the side notes for teaching tips, digital tips and differentiation strategies!

Reviewer #: 12 Reviewer Background: Level II Elementary Teacher with 20 years in the classroom. I have taught 3-5 grades and technology, grades k-5.

Comments: I highly recommend this program for fifth grade. It offers many hands-on activities that support all learners. They offer in-depth and varied investigations to engage all learners. The amount of investigations and material covered is definitely viable for a school year. The student activities and supporting activity sheets are engaging and will challenge students in their scientific practice. Students are expected to work collaboratively and complete a cumulative project at the end of each unit to show their learning.

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This information is provided for local school boards and governing authorities of charter schools to consider in their selection process to meet the needs of their student population.

Text Title:	STCMS Level 6	Publisher:	Carolina Biological Supply Company
Course:	Science	Grade Level:	6-8
SE ISBN:	9781435021808	TE ISBN:	9781435021808
SW ISBN:			

SECTION 1 – NM Content Standards, Benchmarks and Performance Standards

Reviewer # and Section 1 Total: #16 TOTAL 95.31 #17 TOTAL 95.29 #18 TOTAL 94.83
Average Score: 95.14

Review Team Assessment of material’s compliance with Section 1: y

- The inquiry-based activities incorporates everyday real-life examples and applications.
- The science investigations allows students to share their thinking through speaking and writing which encourages critical thinking by citing evidences.
- The sequence of lessons and investigations are easy to follow.
- Navigating the digital version of the book is easy for teachers and students.
- The material is aligned with NGSS.
- The curriculum allows ample opportunity for students to engage in experiments and discovery learning.
- The teachers’ guide is very detailed and provides good support for lessons.

Reviewer # and Section 2 Total: #16 TOTAL 88.89 #17 TOTAL 85.19 #18 TOTAL 92.59
Average Score: 88.89

Review Team Assessment of material’s compliance with Section 2: y

- Students regularly engage in speaking and writing in writing scientific phenomena and engineering solutions.
- Pre-assessments are evident but not summative assessment.
- No evidence of recommendations on how to differentiate instructions to different types of learners.
- No clear references to math standards, specifically in the teacher guide.
- Materials are coherent, sequenced within and across units to build student depth of knowledge.
- Material emphasize students revisiting student ideas when new information is presented.
- Materials are teacher and student friendly.
- Clear scaffolding is present. Each unit builds upon the previous

Reviewer Comments

Reviewer #: 16 Reviewer Background: Experienced educator of 19 years that has taught at several different levels.

Comments: This material calls for students to explore and explain what they are learning and this allows for students to do science and learn while doing.

Reviewer #: 17 Reviewer Background: 16 years of teaching Science (6-12)

Comments: I like the inquiry-based activities that incorporates everyday real-life examples and applications. The science investigations allows students to share their thinking through speaking and writing based on evidences.

Reviewer #: 18 Reviewer Background: 15 years teaching science 7-12

Comments: I was very impressed with how well the textbook was set up for the students. Very friendly and age appropriate. There is just enough challenge to the curriculum to engage the students and push them to the next level. The vocabulary is just enough to help the students when they enter the next levels. Absolutely appropriate for this age group. It is also very teacher friendly so as to encourage the students to think more scientifically. Meets all the NGSS and NM 6 standards.