

2021 Instructional Material Summer Review Institute

**Review Team Appraisal of Title
K-8 World Languages**

This appraisal form is provided for use by educators responsible for the selection of instructional materials for implementation with districts and charter schools across New Mexico to meet the need of their student populations.

This appraisal form should be used in conjunction with the publisher provided Form D: Research Based Effectiveness Determination that supports this reviewed material which can be found on the Instructional Material Bureau website.

<https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/instructional-materials/the-adoption-cycle/>

Text Title	Zhen Bang! - Level 2	Publisher	Carnegie Learning, Inc.
SE ISBN	9781533865014	TE ISBN	9781533865045
SW ISBN		Grade Level/Content	Grades 7-8 World Languages: Chinese

Core Instructional Material Designation (*Core Instructional Material is the comprehensive print or digital educational material, including basal material, which constitutes the necessary instructional components of a full academic course of study in those subjects for which the department has adopted content standards and benchmarks.*)

Recommended
(90% and above)

Recommended with Reservations (80-89%)

Not Recommended and Not Adopted
(below 80%)

Total Score - *The final score for the materials is averaged between the team of reviewers.*

Average Score

88%

Cultural and Linguistic Relevance Recognition - *Materials are reviewed for relevant criteria pertaining to the support for teachers and students in the material regarding cultural relevance and the inclusion of a culturally responsive lens. Those materials receiving a score of 90% or above on the CLR portion of the review are recognized as culturally and linguistically relevant.*

CLR Recognized

Average Score

71%

Materials take into account cultural perspectives.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence (autofilled from All Content Appraisal tab):

Cultural highlights are explored in each lesson, including products, perspectives and practices. But the perspectives on all of them are mostly mainland Chinese, rather than taking into account perspectives from around the globe, such as Chinese communities abroad.

Materials include a culturally responsive lens.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence (autofilled from All Content Appraisal tab):

Some of the notes in the margins of the Teacher's Edition relate content to diversity in culture, but the Student Edition focuses mostly on mainstream Chinese culture, occasionally engaging students in comparisons with their own lives and societies.

Standards Review - Materials are reviewed for alignment with the state adopted content standards, benchmarks and performance standards.

Average Score

88%

Materials align with World-Readiness standards overall.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

Overall, *Zhen Bang* Level 2 is best aligned with the Communications standard. Activities in every lesson are labeled with the three modes of communication (interpretive, presentational, and interpersonal). In its introductions to cultural topics, the text focuses on building student knowledge and familiarity by utilizing English. In this respect it departs from the New Mexico and ACTFL World Readiness Standards for Languages, which recommend that Cultures should be explored using the target language. The Communities standard receives less emphasis than the other Five Cs, and is mainly addressed through simple recommendations in the "Parent Communication tip" in each unit, to teach family members new vocabulary words in order to practice the language outside of class and keep parents and guardians updated on what it being studied.

Materials align with communication standards.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

The Communication modes are thoroughly addressed in the Level 2 *Zhen Bang* textbook and ancillary materials. Interpretive, Presentational and Interpersonal activities are clearly labeled throughout. In addition, the Integrated Performance Assessment digital volume offers assessments incorporating all three modes of communication to accompany each lesson.

Materials align with cultures standards.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

Cultural practices, products and perspectives are explored throughout the text, most notably in the "Cultural Window" segments of each lesson, as well as in the introduction of idiomatic expressions. But these cultural topics are explained in English, ignoring the standard's dictum to "use the language to investigate, explain and reflect on...the cultures studied."

Materials align with connections standards.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

Knowledge of other disciplines presented in the text is mostly in the realm of daily life, though some of the cultural topics in English reach into other disciplines such as geography, medicine, culinary arts, architecture, film, entertainment, history, etc. Perspectives on these topics are not very diverse, however; nor are most of them explored through the target language.

Materials align with comparisons standards.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

Level 2 *Zhen Bang* Student Edition provides a Culture Window and Comparisons in every lesson, e.g., Social Networking, Chinese Traditional Medicine, Dress Code, and National College Entrance Exam, along with a Language Note in each lesson that helps students develop insight into the Chinese language and culture to interact with cultural competence.

Materials align with communities standards.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

Level 2 *Zhen Bang* Teacher's Edition provides a Parent Communication tip in every unit to encourage students to practice the language at home: ask parents to point to body parts for students to say in Chinese, or parents can use Chinese for simple commands such as "get up", "eat" and "wash your face." There are also lessons and activities on after-school activities and summer jobs. However, few activities encourage students to use the language outside the home, into the global community, or set goals for lifelong learning.

WL Content Review - Materials are reviewed for relevant criteria pertaining to the support for teachers and students in the specific content area reviewed.

Average Score

90%

Materials provide a selection and range of high-quality texts worthy of students' time and attention, exhibiting exceptional craft and thought and/or providing useful information.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

Zhen Bang Level 2 is a carefully crafted and comprehensive volume appropriate for middle-school age students. Although the majority of texts are modified or specifically target Chinese language learners, rather than being authentic materials written by and for native speakers, the style and format closely resemble authentic texts. Each lesson of each unit is designed to build on and simultaneously review prior knowledge, introducing students to useful vocabulary and phrases through dialogues with comprehension questions in characters and pinyin. Cultural topics are addressed almost exclusively in English, rather than the target language.

Questions in the materials are high-quality text-dependent and text-specific questions. The overwhelming majority of these questions are text-specific and draw student attention to the particulars in the text.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

Questions in the material are high-quality text-dependent and text-specific with visual aids that are like authentic materials that draw student attention to the particulars of the text. Level 2 *Zhen Bang* activities include: reading a cram school advertisement, blog, email, club recruiting posters, supermarket flyer and more. Questions are mostly in Chinese, or with Pinyin to help students speak.

Materials provide scaffolding and supports to enable students' learning of world languages.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

Student Books from Level 1 to 2 *Zhen Bang* provide scaffolding and supports by introducing new words and patterns within the same thematic units. Therefore, students learn the language expressions from simple to in-depth; general to specific. The student workbook provides 7 or more tasks per lesson to support students' learning and acquisition of the language.

All Content Review - Materials are reviewed for relevant criteria pertaining to the support for teachers and students in the material regarding the progression of the standards, lesson structure, pacing, assessment, individual learners and cultural relevance.

Average Score

86%

Materials are coherent and consistent with the standards that all students should study in order to be college and career ready.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

Level 2 *Zhen Bang* Teacher's Edition includes the 10 skills statements from the ACTFL World Languages 21st Century Skills Map; most contents are coherent and consistent with ACTFL and New Mexico World Readiness Language Standards. There are few activities to address the skills of Flexibility and Adaptability, Initiative and Self-Direction, and Social and Cross-Cultural Skills.

Materials are well designed and take into account effective lesson structure and pacing.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

Level 2 *Zhen Bang* Teacher's Edition includes Lesson Planning and Pacing guide for Traditional (50-minute classes) and Block schedule (90-minute classes) in 180 days or 90 blocks. As all units contain the same instructional components, teachers may reference the provided Unit 1 Sample Lesson Plan for effective lesson pacing.

Materials support teacher planning, learning, and understanding of the standards.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

A thorough introduction to the ACTFL and New Mexico World Readiness Standards for Languages in Chinese and English in the beginning of the book supports teachers' understanding. The clear labels above each and every activity denote which standards those activities address, which helps to build awareness and also aids in teacher planning to address all of the standards. But the overall emphasis is clearly on the Communication standard, with some deficits apparent in the Cultures and Communities standards.

Materials offer teachers resources and tools to collect ongoing data about student progress on the standards.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

The online Edulastic program and Classroom function offer tracking tools, where student scores can be stored. There are no instructions or descriptions on how these tools can collect data specific to student progress on the standards.

Materials support effective use of technology to enhance student learning.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

Students can access the digital resource "Passport" for Level 2 *Zhen Bang* eBooks, to complete assignments, practice activities, submit work, receive feedback and track progress. These resources/apps are listed as Margin Icons in the Student Edition.

Materials can be easily customized for individual learners.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

The wide array of activities--in the student edition, annotated teacher's edition, and online--allow for customization insofar as different students can be assigned different practice work. Instructions on how to customize individual assignments are absent. Group activities allow for different students to take on different roles. Instructors may choose to create their own assignments in the online Assignments Library, by clicking the button "Create Activity" and uploading material to assign certain learners based on individual needs.

Materials give all students extensive opportunities and support to explore key concepts.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

Each of the six units in the Level 2 book contains three lessons connected to the unit theme, allowing students opportunities to explore these key concepts, and build up knowledge of related vocabulary.

Materials take into account cultural perspectives.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

Cultural highlights are explored in each lesson, including products, perspectives and practices. But the perspectives on all of them are mostly mainland Chinese, rather than taking into account perspectives from around the globe, such as Chinese communities abroad.

Materials include a culturally responsive lens.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

Some of the notes in the margins of the Teacher's Edition relate content to diversity in culture, but the Student Edition focuses mostly on mainstream Chinese culture, occasionally engaging students in comparisons with their own lives and societies.

Reviewers' Professional Summation - These materials are reviewed by Level II and Level III educators from across New Mexico. The reviewers have brought their knowledge, experience and expertise into the review of these materials. They offer here their individual summary of the material as a whole.

Reviewer #: 118

Background and experience:

This reviewer has a level III license, with endorsements in Modern and Classical Languages, Social Studies, and English Language Arts and has been a Chinese teacher since 2007. This reviewer has a Master's degree from UNM in Organizational Learning and Instructional Technology and a Bachelor's degree in Asian Studies. This review has also been rated as fluent in Mandarin by the Test of Chinese as a Foreign Language. This reviewer is a certified AP Chinese teacher in addition to being active in professional organizations: ACTFL, SWCOLT, NMOLE, CLTA-NM.

Professional summary of material:

Zhen Bang Level 2 is standards-aligned, with ample online supplemental resources, including video and audio recordings of the text; graded eReaders at the beginner level; activities which can be assigned through the online platform (tests, quizzes; performances); digital versions of both student and teacher editions of the book; a Character Practice Book with detailed instructions on how to write the characters and what they are comprised of; a student workbook with accompanying digital assignments; and access to pre-made Quizlet flashcards for each lesson (though the Games app does not appear to contain any content at the time of this writing). The topics covered in the text are health, daily life, friends, guests, food, and summer vacation. Each lesson contains culture segments in English. Activities are clearly labeled with the standards they address. Chinese characters throughout the book are accompanied by pinyin directly below or beside the text, which aids learners in determining pronunciation, but may also hamper literacy development when used as a crutch. Illustrations are bountiful, colorful, and for the most part accessible, though the tendency in ethnic representation is toward Caucasian, Asian and a few African American images.

Reviewer #: 119

Background and experience:

This reviewer has a level III license, with an endorsement in Modern and Classical Languages (Chinese) and has been a classroom teacher since 2006. This reviewer is also a Certified AP Chinese teacher and UNM adjunct lecturer with a Master's degree from Chinese Culture University in Journalism (Taiwan, Republic of China) and a Master's degree from Boston University in Public Relations. The reviewer is an active member of the Chinese Language Teacher Association of NM, the New Mexico Chinese Association, and the Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation.

Professional summary of material:

Structured like Level 1, *Zhen Bang* Level 2 addresses ACTFL and New Mexico World Readiness standards in six lesson units, but starts with a brief review of the Level 1 Foundation and Units 1-6. The "review" feature may help students retain learned knowledge, but for high-performing students, this component is repetitive. There are two additional sections that engage advanced students: Raising the Bar for more Chinese proverbs and Reading Comprehension to strengthen reading speed and comprehension; however, few activities engage students in writing in full paragraphs or even beyond several sentences. Overall, students learn how to express themselves and articulate their thoughts in Level 2. Although there are few suggestions on modifying contents for diverse students and cultural backgrounds, the activities encourage students to be world travelers; the extensive Culture Notes and images of Chinese tourist attractions engage and motivate all students to meet proficiency and to visit China.

Reviewer #: 120

Background and experience:

This reviewer has a level III License, with endorsements in Modern and Classical Languages (Chinese) and Mathematics. A classroom teacher since 2003, this reviewer also has a Master of Science for Teachers degree from NMT and a Bachelor's degree from Providence College in Chinese Literature (Taiwan, Republic of China). This reviewer is an active member of Chinese Language Teacher Association of NM and New Mexico Chinese Association.

Professional summary of material:

Zhen Bang Level 2 fulfills most of the ACTFL and New Mexico World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages. The content is well designed. It provides clear instructional guidance for teachers to implement. It provides abundant content and materials with easy-to-follow instructions to support and enhance student learning, but there are not enough materials for differentiating instruction for students with special needs. The materials take into account cultural perspectives but do not include a wide variety of diverse ethnicities. It provides a chance for students to share the Chinese they learned with their family members at the beginning of each unit, but no opportunities to interact and collaborate in the community and the globalized world. There is no explicit content to guide students to set goals for lifelong learning.