

NSTU recommends

step-by-step guide addresses key issues, such as choosing the right area for certification.

The authors provide suggestions for the application process and follow-through. Outstanding examples, personal experiences, and specific tips for completing the necessary steps for certification will give teachers confidence to demonstrate their commitment to excellent teaching. The process of National Board Certification may be complex, but it allows good teachers to demonstrate their

individuality. This guide will be essential to those who aspire to this level of certification.

Virginia C. Demchik



Reinvent the Wheel

By Ruth Kassinger
115 pp. \$14.95. ISBN 0471395390.
John Wiley. 2001.
(Grades K-8)

I know that I ask myself at least five times a week, "Why reinvent the

wheel?" With this activity book, however, Ruth Kassinger gives teachers reason to reinvent not only the wheel but also the compass, the trebuchet, and paper. This collection of clearly written activities enlivens lessons on force, motion, and simple machines by putting them in historical and real-world context.

This book contains designs and activities for upper elementary or middle level students. These activities illustrate the principles behind historical inventions that filled the needs of people of the past. The activities are easy to do; clear directions and simple materials lists mean students can follow the directions with little adaptation. An extension activity for each lesson lets students apply what they have learned.

Accompanying each activity is a brief history of the need for the invention as well as some biographical information about the inventor. In my favorite experiment, we constructed a barometer that records data just as accurately as the two very expensive weather stations that are installed in my classroom. Many of the activities could be adapted and used for science fair projects or as demonstrations to introduce units. This is a great book and certainly a worthwhile resource for any elementary science teacher.

Stephanie Hobrock

Science Under the Sea Series: Sea Snails; Sponges; Shrimp; Seahorses; Corals; Sea Anemones

By Lynn M. Stone

24 pp. each. \$14.45 each. ISBN 1589523202; ISBN 1589523229; ISBN 1589523210; ISBN 1589523199; ISBN 1589523180; ISBN 1589523172.
Rourke. 2003. (Grades K-4)



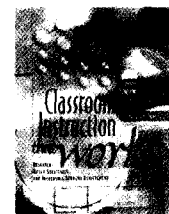
The *Science Under the Sea* series introduces elementary students to the physical characteristics, behaviors, and habitats of some of the ocean's most interesting animals. Each book in this series is organized in a logical order. Teachers will appreciate this structure, especially for use with nonfiction guided-reading groups.

Vocabulary is printed in bold face and listed in a glossary, which is a great tool for guided reading. Each book also includes some words that students will have to decipher through contextual clues.

Younger students will appreciate the stunning full-color underwater photographs, although the books are too small to make effective read-aloud experiences for an entire class. Older elementary students will easily navigate through the books on their own. Additional readings and informational websites are listed for further explorations.

I am always pleased to find books that meld high-interest content with literacy instruction. This series would make a great addition to an elementary ocean unit. Students who grab a volume to look at the pictures will soon be stretching their skills to learn more about corals, sea anemones, seahorses, sea snails, shrimp, and sponges.

Elizabeth Schuster



Classroom Instruction that Works: Research-Based Strategies for Increasing Student Achievement

By Robert J. Marzano, Debra J. Pickering, and Jane E. Pollock
178 pp. \$24.95. ISBN 0871205041.
National Academy Press. 2001.
(Grades K-12)

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