

Science Textbook Review Committee

Recommended Sixth Grade and Middle School Science
Basal Materials 2005

Textbooks recommended for Grade 6

Prentice Hall, (2004) *Science Explorer Grade 6* (Virginia Edition). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, Inc.

This book was developed specifically to cover all of the 2003 Virginia Science Standards of Learning for the sixth grade. The Grade Six Virginia Standards of Learning and Chapter Planning Charts are included in the front of the teacher's guide and help teachers see the connections between the text and standards. The book includes sections that address reading strategies, student self assessment, laboratory activities, common misconceptions, and integration of science activities with Language Arts, Mathematics, and Social Studies. The appendices include a skills section and a glossary of key terms. This book is recommended for all sixth grade students and is to be used in conjunction with the FCPS inquiry-based 6th grade science kits, science trade books, and other media materials.

Hsu, T., (2003) *CPO Science: Foundations of Physical Science with Earth and Space Science*. Peabody, MA: Delta Education, Inc.

This text covers the sixth grade Standards of Learning related to Physical and Earth Science. Through readings and hands on investigations, students cover such topics as water (and it's importance on Earth), oceans, properties of thermal energy transfer, wind currents, ocean currents, human impact on the land, Earth's position in space, physical properties of planets, mathematical models, stars, and electromagnetic radiation. This textbook provides several activity ideas that support the integration of mathematics and science and experimental design. A set of physical science and earth science laboratory equipment valued at over \$2,000 is included at no additional cost with every 32 student books (class set) ordered. This book is recommended for GT Center 6th grade classrooms to support the hands-on inquiry based sixth grade science units. This book is also recommended as a science reference/resource for all sixth grade teachers.

McGraw Hill, Glencoe and National Geographic (2005) *Middle School Modules: Motions, Forces, and Energy; The Air Around You; Astronomy; The Nature of Matter; and Water*, Columbus, OH: McGraw Hill.

Each of these modular books focuses on a specific segment of the 2003 Virginia Sixth Grade Science Standards of Learning. The books each contain a variety of foldable activities, assessments, and mini-labs that can be done as extensions in school and at home. These modules are recommended as teacher resources for planning enrichment activities for sixth grade students. Each sixth grade teacher would receive one teacher edition and one student edition of this text for their classroom.

Textbook recommended for Grade 7, Life Science

McDougal Littel. (2006) *Life Science*. Evanston, IL: Houghton Mifflin Company.

This well-designed text provides content and activities organized around the big ideas and key concepts of science. This book correlates very closely to the *2003 Virginia Science Standards of Learning* and will best augment the FCPS Life Science curriculum. The progression of topics, general layout, and readability of the book are user-friendly and suitable for all students. Easy-to-understand examples, analogies, and diagrams are incorporated throughout the text; a feature of high importance to students with special needs. Reading and metacognitive strategies are woven throughout the text to help students assess their understanding. Numerous examples of reading and note taking strategies -- important tools to help students process what they have learned -- are included in the teacher and student editions. A wide range of assessment options, both in terms of format and cognitive level, are provided in the teacher's edition. The technology and on-line resources (*iContent Review*, *Classzone.com*, *CD Rom*, *Scientific American Frontiers*, and *SciLinks*) provide valuable resources for teachers, students and parents to use to enhance student learning and supplement concepts presented in the text and Life Science curriculum.

Textbook recommended for Grade 8, Physical Science

Borgford, C., Champagne, A., Cuevas, M., et al. (2005) *Holt Science and Technology: Physical Science*. Austin, TX: Holt, Reinhart, and Winston.

This text is strongly aligned to the *2003 Virginia Science Standards of Learning* and provides a thorough discussion of topics that will serve to augment the FCPS Physical Science curriculum.

Each chapter of the text provides examples of science-related careers as well as everyday applications of the concepts being learned. Common features to be found in each chapter include: inclusion and reading strategies, misconception alerts, "bellringer" opening activities, standardized test preparation, CNN News stories, *SciLinks*, and connections to other disciplines. Technology is integrated throughout this resource and students have access to *Current Science* on-line magazine, internet and School-to-Home activities. Additional resources for teachers and students include the Interactive Explorations CD-Rom, Visual Concepts DVD which contains instructional graphics, animations, movie clips, and audio clips.