

Social Studies Curriculum/Textbook Review

The Nevada textbook rubric scoring system was used by the adoption committee to determine the alignment of each publisher to the Nevada Classroom Instructional Material Alignment, and Textbook and Instructional Material. If a publisher was not selected it was due to the committee scoring the textbook lower in areas of alignment to district curriculum, independent usability of the resource by the students, technology, layout and flow of the textbook, etc. It was through this process of scoring that the team selected World History Great Civilizations: Ancient Through Early Modern Times by Fredrik Hiebert, Jeremy McInerney, and Christopher P. Thornton and published by National Geographic Learning/Cengage.

World History Great Civilizations: Ancient Through Early Modern Times: National Geographic Learning/Cengage

This textbook and resources were selected because of the high quality, rigorous reading required of students. The reading passage are "chunked" for shorter bursts of difficult reading which allows for students to build their reading skills through sustained passage reading but short enough for a 6th grade student to feel successful. The text reading is on the high end of the lexile range for 6th grade but the online component allows for students to also read at a modified level through the click of a button. Students can be challenged with rigorous grade-level reading in class but can also be successful with independent reading with an accommodated level if needed. Additionally, the teacher's edition textbook provides detailed instructional suggestions for special populations such as special education, english language learners, and gifted and talented students. The new social studies standards have specific disciplinary skills that are addressed in the student textbook via high-level cognitive questions as well as a "field journal" that is part of the online platform to push students to think deeply and in multiple ways about the subject matter.

World History: My World Interactive Early Ages Middle Grades: Pearson

This textbook and resources were not selected mainly because of the textbook. The readings were fairly long and the committee felt written in an uninteresting, vocabulary-driven style. Meaning instead of embedding key vocabulary into the passage in a way that students can infer and define a term on their own, a definition was provided explicitly within the reading. The images and reading passages overall were not well received by the committee. The field journal that accompanied the text was highly regarded with great resources but the textbook and overall online platform of Pearson versus National Geographic text and resources were the deciding factors not to select Pearson.

Ancient Civilizations: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

HMH textbook and resources were not selected for the following reasons: The supplemental materials seemed dated in terms of their overall look and the tasks for students. The book was visually boring and the reading passages were very wordy and uninteresting. The online materials were set up like PowerPoints that you could teach straight from, which was a plus in some ways but it lacked the overall interactive, critical thinking needed to meet the new, rigorous standards and push our students to achieve college and career readiness.