

Learning® Magazine

14th Annual

Teachers' ChoiceSM Award for the Classroom 2008

Below you will find the comments for your product. As you read the comments, please note that this is the literal text from the evaluation forms. We have not differentiated comments between the teachers on each team.

Although we encourage teachers to provide comments, it is not a requirement. Therefore, you may notice if you had multiple entries, the responses may be more or less in depth depending on the team of teachers. **We do not use comments in the scoring process.** They are provided as insight into the panel's thoughts on your product.

We hope you find the responses helpful and continue to participate in the Teachers' Choice Awards in the future. Applications will be available in January 2008 for the 15th Annual Teachers' ChoiceSM Awards program.

Product Key - 240

Product - Enciclopdeia Universal En Espanol

Company - Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc.

What aspects of this product did you like most?

I loved that my kids could navigate it on their own. My ESL kids really had a boost when they saw this! It has an entire section called " Enciclopedia Juvenile" that was extremely useful and fun to use. The kids loved to navigate on their own the students really enjoyed it! My ESL students were very excited when I showed them this product. It was easy for them to do on their own once they were shown what to do. It was fun for them and my regular ed students liked working with them on it. I am basing my evaluation on the juvenile edition since it best fits my students. The site is interactive and truly kid-friendly. The ease of getting information is clear and the way the information is presented is suitable for lower level learners. I loved the videos. I watched most of them across all the disciplines and found them informative and interesting. The students found them interesting, too. They also liked the math games.

The encyclopedia allowed students to get information by viewing videos, reading simple blurbs, and by playing games. This attributed to keeping their interest. In the juvenile addition, I liked the videos and the games because it allowed the children to be involved with their own learning. The videos were very engaging and kept the children's interest as they encouraged them to learn more. The math games were a non-threatening way to improve their math facts.

How would this product need to improve to better support your curriculum?

I felt that it was great just the way it was. I have no suggestions. I was a great product no suggestions were needed. It is fine just the way it is. To improve this product, you could have more videos and more math games. By covering more information and concepts, you would be making your product invaluable in supporting the Spanish speaker.

It wasn't always evident where to find the information. I needed to sometimes direct the students. If some of the topics were stated more directly with perhaps a picture next to it, I think it would help with the confusion.

I would love if the information was bilingual. This would better support an ESL classroom and could extend the use to students who also speak other languages. Since I don't speak Spanish, I had to rely on the picture cues and inferential information to start up the activities.

How did you make use of the product, or integrate it into your lesson plans?

I used it for my ESL students to work on projects that they could share with the class. The Animales A-Z section was a favorite! My class as a whole could use some of the matematicas section, numbers are numbers in English too! The solids, liquids, and gases under Buscar Videos really helped them understand our science unit on Matter!

The ESL students love to work on projects and the matter section went right along with our curriculum. My students loved the section on Animals A-Z. It was very cool for them and the color illustrations were great. It gave them an opportunity to work along with us and be learning at the same time. I liked the leveled math games and science curriculum.

In the ESL classroom setting, I chose several of the videos and math games to use for the purpose of reinforcing regular classroom instruction. I also used the material for enjoyment. I allowed the students to explore the different sites and asked them what they liked. Personal preferences ranged from the animals to the math games to the maps.

We used the product several ways. First, we used it as we studied the weather. The videos really made things come alive, and I didn't have to search out other sources for supplemental materials. Second, students used the site on their own for fun. I directed many of them to the math games which they enjoyed.

We used the videos during our study of the rainforest. We looked at the animals found in the rainforest and the weather conditions. We also looked up related information and added it to the other resources we were using. The students also did some research on an animal of their choice. Additionally, the students played the math games for fun.

What skills did your students learn from this product?

The Buscar videos section really brought home our science unit on Matter. They were able to watch the video and hear it in their native language. They were also able to gain mouse skills and navigation skills on a website.

The matter video was the most information for them since we study matter in 2nd grade. It really helped my ESL students understand our science section on matter. Having the concepts in their own language gave them a better handle on what matter was all about.

The use of technology in classroom learning is an important component of my ESL program. The students were able to experiment with getting a variety of information by surfing through your site. They also acquired information on everything from science, to

math, to social studies, all presented in a palpable fashion. The students learned a lot about the weather which would have been difficult without the Spanish support. They also practiced their math computations using the games. This was a great opportunity for them to perform in a relaxed setting.

The students were able to use the computer to broaden their knowledge of the rainforest and the weather there. The visuals were very interesting and made the information come alive.

If funds were available, would you recommend this product to another teacher at the appropriate grade/age level? Please explain why or why not.

I really would. I feel that you would use it over and over again. Yes, I would definitely recommend this product! Yes, any teacher with ESL students would find this beneficial. It is a web site that the children can do on their own with only a little direction.

I really liked the site. It would be most appropriate for a bilingual class at the elementary level. This is a great tool for Spanish speakers in the mainstream or bilingual classroom. The most appropriate age would be lower elementary school.

I would recommend this product to teachers of Spanish speakers, whether in a regular, bilingual or ESL classroom. The appropriate age level would be grades 1 - 5. Does your encyclopedia come in English?