Soaring into History

Look up in the sky! It's not a bird, it's a glider! Norman Schmidt's *Fabulous Paper Gliders* (ISBN 1-895569-21-4) traces the history of aviation using miniature paper aircraft. Almost every model is based on an actual glider, each with its own wonderful history. Tips on aerodynamics and construction ensure that these historical beauties will really soar. Older students discover 16 different types of gliders to construct and fly from the standard Paper Wing to the Orlik, designed in Poland for competition in the Olympic Games. Look at dozens of photos of early flying machines and sailplanes at the end of the 20th century and aviators such as the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk in 1903. The best part is that nothing gets cut from the book. It's a lifetime's worth of patterns that you can just photocopy and use again and again. For more information, contact Sterling Publishing Co. Inc., 387 Park Ave. S, New York, NY 10016-8810; (212) 532-7160.

Games of Critical Thinking

Tishman and Andrade's *Critical Squares* (ISBN 1-56308-490-2) is a set of six games that use cubes to jump start students' critical thinking and understanding. All the activities depend on physical things to support them—cubes and tic-tac-toe diagrams as well as notepads. All the activities also depend on social interaction, as groups of students gather to roll the cubes and vie with one another to fill out the tic-tac-toe squares. Recommended for older students, the games include the "Starting Block" which is played to motivate students and help them access prior knowledge; the "Whatzit Tic-Tac-Toe" which helps students think broadly about the features of something they are studying; the "Whyzit Cube" which helps students explore the structure of a topic, concept, or object by examining its purposes and evaluating its effectiveness; the "Causal Tic-Tac-Toe" which helps students go beyond a one-dimensional, linear conception of causality and appreciate the complexity and multidimensionality of causal relationships; the "Connection Cube" which helps students to integrate new knowledge with prior knowledge and to transfer knowledge to new contexts; and the "Reflection Cube" which helps the students reflect on and evaluate their own thinking. For more information, contact Teacher Ideas Press, P.O. Box 6633, Englewood, CO 80155-6633; (800) 237-6124.

Innovative Multidisciplinary Curriculum

Using a local controversy—a community battle over pushcart vendors—*The Pushcart War* (ISBN 0-7872-3570-9) is a series of simulated multidisciplinary activities that focuses the students' attention on the theme of "war," its strategies, and consequences. Bronson and Sims begin the series of activities by examining the relationship between the "Daffodil Massacre" and the "Boston Massacre." In subsequent lessons, information is gathered from the city offices, from adults in various occupations, time lines, the Bill of Rights, and other sources. Students in grades three through eight use the five creative problem-solving
steps to identify a solution as well as other processes such as observing, argumentation, discussion, proof of reasoning, experimentation, and role playing. Persuasive speeches and newspaper articles are some of the many products that are generated in this exciting study. For more information, contact Kendall/Hunt Publishing Co., 4050 Westmark Dr., Dubuque, IA 52002.

Ticket to Tomorrow

What will life be like in the future? This question has fascinated people for thousands of years. In Betty Lies' new book, My Ticket to Tomorrow (ISBN 1-55591-285-0), she explores that question by looking at a snapshot of history and today's world, followed by suggestions for exploring what might happen tomorrow. The book offers 52 topics, each one dealing with a different aspect of life on Earth. Students are then asked to record today and imagine tomorrow, "what kind of home entertainment center might you have in your house in the 21st century?" (p. 31). Students can use this book as a journal, choosing topics of interest, or teachers can choose a focus for in-depth studies. For more information, contact Fulcrum Publishing, 350 Indiana St., Suite 350, Golden, CO 80401-5093; (800) 992-2908.

Connections to History

Literature Connections to American History, 7-12: Resources to Enhance and Entice (ISBN 1-56308-503-8) is a consummate resource for teachers and students. Author Lynda Adamson has attempted to link "good reads" to American history. This 623-page book is divided into two main parts. The first part lists authors and titles in the categories of historical fiction, biography, collective biography, history trade books, CD-ROM, and videotape within specific time periods according to grade levels. The second part contains annotated bibliographies of titles listed in the first part: books, CD-ROMs, and videotapes. Some titles appear several different times. For example, people with long lives such as Benjamin Franklin span several time periods. Benjamin Franklin functioned as a contributing citizen in the colonies, during the American Revolution, and during the infancy of the United States. For more information, contact Libraries Unlimited Inc., P.O. Box 6633, Englewood, CO 80155-6633; (800) 237-6124.

All About Gravity

Introduce your students to the strange and powerful force that guides raindrops as they fall, keeps people from dropping off the Earth's surface, controls our planet's orbit around the sun, and holds billions of stars together in the Milky Way. Gravity, how it was discovered, and how it works are the focus of Gilbert and Smith's Gravity: The Glue of the Universe (ISBN 1-56308-442-2) for students in grades 5–8. This book begins with Aristotle's "Earth things" falling toward the center of Earth, trying to find their natural resting place, and ends with the possibility of all the galaxies with their suns and planets, white dwarf stars, neutron stars, and black holes gravitationally collapsing toward a singularity in a closed Einstein universe. Each of the lesson plans provides background information, a teaching model strategy, objectives, vocabulary, materials, procedure, review questions, student handouts, and simple experiments. This book is a great way for students to use the scientific skills in building scientific knowledge. For more information, contact Teacher Ideas Press, P.O. Box 6633, Englewood, CO 80155-6633; (800) 237-6124.