



Standards Alignment

The National Center for History in the Schools National Standards for History (1996)

Standard 2A – Students understand the history of their own community.

Standard 2B – Students understand how communities in North America varied long ago.

Standard 4B – Students understand ordinary people who have exemplified values and principles of American democracy.

National Council for the Social Studies Curriculum for Social Studies (1994)

Standard 2 – Time, Continuity and Change

Standard 3 – People, Places and Environment

Standard 6 -- Power, Authority, and Governance

Standard 10 -- Civic Ideals and Practices

REVIEW OF SECOND GRADE UNIT "ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY" by Dr. M. Gail Hickey, Professor of Education

The Second Grade History Unit "Environmental History" represents a strategy for introducing young students to the study of their environment by involving them in meaningful, active learning experiences. The unit also is based upon appropriate pedagogical foundations. Dulberg (1998), for example, found engaging young students in instruction based on inquiry, explanation, and interaction with rich content is essential to their construction of historical perspectives, while Davis (1997) emphasized the use of interdisciplinary instruction for teaching history or social studies at the elementary level is appropriate.

The "Environmental History" instructional unit also draws upon curriculum standards



identified by national educational organizations. The National Center for History in the Schools' National Standards for History for Grades K-4 (1994), lists content standards for primary grades students, including "Students should understand the history of their own local community and how communities in North America varied long ago." The same document lists history-related skills appropriate for teaching young students, such as "Historical issues: Analysis and decision making: identify issues in the past; compare interests and values of various people; suggest alternative choices for solving a historical problem; prepare a position on an issue; evaluate the consequences of a decision." Each of these content standards and historical skills is a focus of one or more lessons in the second grade unit "Environmental History."