



Standards Alignment

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

Standard 2 – Time, Continuity and Change

REVIEW OF FIRST GRADE UNIT – My History at School by Dr. M. Gail Hickey, Professor of Education

The First Grade History Unit "Ziploc Baggie Book of Me" represents a strategy for involving young students in the study of history by drawing upon their own past experience. The unit also is based upon appropriate pedagogical foundations.

Barton (1994), for example, determined constructivist approaches for teaching history or social studies, such as those emphasized in "Ziploc Baggie Book of Me", help young students build upon the knowledge they bring to the classroom setting and allow them to expand their perception of change over time by examining history through a personal lens.

The "Ziploc Baggie Book of Me" instructional unit also draws upon curriculum standards identified by national educational organizations. The National Council for the Social Studies, in its Curriculum Standards for Social Studies (1994), emphasizes students in first through third grades should explore, among other things, "concepts of communities, past and present", in much the same way students explore the community of kindergarten through "Ziploc Baggie Book of Me". The National Center for History in the Schools' National Standards for History for Grades K-4 (1994), lists history-related skills for primary grades students, including chronological thinking (distinguish past, present, and future time; establish temporal order when constructing own historical narratives; measure and calculate calendar time; make and interpret timelines; explain continuity and change over time), and historical research capabilities (state historical questions; locate historical data; interpret data; use historical knowledge to write a story, explanation, or narrative). Each of these content standards and historical skills is a focus of one or more lessons in "Ziploc Baggie Book of Me".