

Create! Food Technology

Reviewed by Ali Farrell, Director, FoodForum

'Create! Food Technology' is one in a series of D&T resources for different focus areas, each consisting of a Student book, Teacher File and Student CD-ROM.

The teacher may choose to dip into the resource for lesson or activity ideas or adopt it as a very comprehensive, progressional course for the whole Key Stage.

The Teacher File provides guidance on the KS3 Strategy planning, differentiation and assessment as well as photocopiable worksheets that support the units with which students are presented in the Student Book. These are all available in customizable format on the CD-ROM, so that teachers may tailor them to the needs of their students.

The interactive Student CD-ROM is designed to complement activities in the Student Book and includes: visual interactive starter activities for each unit; ready-made templates to help foundation students create electronic documents; a resource bank of images, video and finished examples of ICT work; video clips showing examples of real-life food technology including CAD & CAM.

The resource comprehensively addresses the KS3 National Strategy requirements and links to the QCA KS3 D&T Scheme of Work. Essential KS3 food topics are covered and they are dealt with to an appropriate level of depth and detail. It also addresses, in very practical ways, the need for all curriculum areas

to incorporate the use of ICT to support teaching and learning.

One strength of the resource is that it addresses curriculum requirements whilst also making sense of them and putting them into practical contexts. For example, each unit of work in the Student Book sets out a manageable number of key objectives and key words that pupils will encounter, as well as promoting thinking skills and citizenship. Each unit addresses progression through strands as suggested in the QCA Scheme of Work, it also follows good practice guidance of ensuring that the KS3 curriculum teaches designing skills, making skills and knowledge and understanding through a range of activities including focused tasks and product evaluation tasks.

A further strength is that the resource addresses KS2 to KS3 transition by acknowledging that children will have experienced food in their lives prior to arriving in Y7. The Student Book begins with a short unit of focused tasks, entitled 'Building on learning from KS2' which encourages discussion of food work undertaken in primary school.

One aspect of the resource which could be seen as a weakness, but in all fairness is just a challenge to the teacher, is that the materials take some time to become familiar with and to plan how to use. This means that it is not a completely 'ready made' solution, but rather a kit that needs to be

planned and assembled. This is actually the mark of a good resource, because it requires a teacher's input to make it their own for their particular students.

The Student Book and CD-ROM are attractively presented, well-designed, colourful and lively. The black and white photocopiable worksheets in the Teacher File are clearly set out and appropriately visual. Language and presentation styles are accessible to a range of KS3 abilities, with a good mix of text and visuals. In the Student Book icons are used to cross-reference resources within the set. Whilst a good idea these may take some time to internalise. For example, there are letters, numbers and icons to get used to which may be a little much for some children. Key vocabulary is shown in bold and helpfully explained in a glossary at the back of the book.

The Teacher File and Student Book are good value because they contain a wealth of information presented in a very usable way. The option to purchase the CD-ROM site licence is not cheap at £180, although comparable with other software licences of this type. However, it does contain an electronic bank of interactivities, worksheet templates and information to support KS3 food technology. In that respect, the site licence is good value for money if you intend to use it regularly with a whole class.

Students are likely to find the design motivating and engaging and so are teachers! This is a seriously good resource with a great sense of humour!

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Appropriate Content	✓✓✓✓	Generic Use	
Pupil/Student Use	✓✓✓✓	One of a series	✓
Teacher Resource	✓✓✓✓	Photocopiable	✓
Visuals	✓✓✓✓	Pupil/student activities	✓
Overall Style	✓✓✓✓	Cross-curricular	✓

