

Create! Product Design

Reviewed by Glyn Jones, The Alun School, Mold

The first thing I noticed upon opening and quickly scanning the 'Create!' pack was the wealth and range of material that is contained within it. Within the pack are a Product Design Teacher's Resource Pack with CD-ROM and a Product Design Students Book.

The pack primarily addresses the KS3 Resistant Materials/Product Design and electronics focus areas of the Design and Technology National Curriculum. When taking time to investigate further, it became obvious how well this wealth of material deals with the Design and Technology KS3 requirements. The pack contains a wide range of units covering understanding and exploring materials, manufacturing methods and techniques, using systems and control within society, structures, forces and mechanisms and designing for clients and markets.

To be used by both teacher and pupil the Create! Pack is an ideal resource that can be used to plan and deliver either individual lessons or full schemes of work. Provided within the Teacher's Resource Pack are sample schemes of work and lesson plans with all of the relevant worksheets and references to the Student book. Also included are sample lesson evaluation sheets and all relevant National Curriculum documentation. The CD-ROM contains all of the material that is found within the Teacher's Resource Pack, over 150 pages of material. One section that I found particularly interesting was Unit 1 –

'Building on learning from KS2'. This provided a re-cap of prior learning and a description specifically for pupils of what Product Design is and how it is used, something all Year 7 pupils would benefit from. The worksheets are extremely user friendly, although the copyright restriction does mean that only one copy of each sheet provided can be made. They do however provide excellent examples that could be used by an individual to develop valuable classroom resources.

The Student Book would serve as an excellent classroom text for any teacher of Resistant Materials/Product Design. The information within the book is broken into units that are clear, concise and to the point. The book uses a menu of logos throughout that provide links to the KS3 National Strategy. These include Designing, Focussed Practical Tasks, ICT, Literacy and Numeracy skills and Thinking skills. At relevant intervals within each unit these links are promoted and tasks are suggested. At the start of each unit the objectives and key words that apply to the task are made clear, and at the end a plenary is provided. Product Analysis is used heavily throughout the book as a task for pupils to learn for themselves. Industrial and social considerations are well presented and I particularly liked the links that the book makes to design classics and famous designers. For KS3 pupils this is a very worth while activity. A class set of this book would be ideal. All



pupils across KS3 could quite easily work through this book on their own or as a class based activity. Similarly teachers could use the book without the resource pack to develop individual lessons or even a short, focussed scheme of work.

The quality of this pack will only become apparent when you sit and view the materials for yourself. It provides excellent examples for project ideas and lesson content. All of the material is up to date and excellent links are made to society and the wider world of design. The language and layout of the Student Book is perfect for KS3. Colour photographs and diagrams are used throughout making it a glossy, interactive resource that any pupil or department would benefit from.

Designed for KS3 Design and Technology this pack would work well at any level up to KS4. Teachers at KS3 would find it most useful, but teachers of KS2 and KS4 would, I am sure, take valuable ideas and resources from the pack. The only criticism, if I have to make one, is the price of the Student book. At £9.50 it makes a class set fairly expensive. The Teacher's Resource Pack is priced at £59.99 and this includes all of the material on CD-ROM, The Interactive Student CD-ROM is priced at £180.00 and this includes the site license. Details of this interactive CD-ROM can be found at www.heinemann.co.uk.

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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	✓