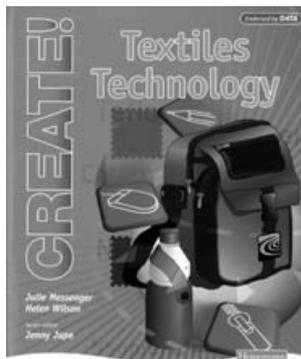


Create! Textiles Technology

Reviewed by Gilly Dobson, Nelson Thomlinson School, Cumbria



Students Book

This book has been written to help deliver the new Key Stage 3 Strategy in Textiles. There are two other similar books in the series; one for Food Technology and another for Product Design. For each of the three subject areas there is a students' book, a teacher's resource pack with customisable CD-ROM and an interactive student CD-ROM. The series is an exact match to the QCA Design Technology Scheme of Work.

The student's book consists of 96 pages with colour photos and illustrations. This makes the book visually appealing to pupils and easier to follow. The book consists of 10 units, which are highlighted throughout with links to the KS3 Strategy. The student's book could be linked in with design and make projects that teachers might wish to teach in the classroom, such as making a hat or a simple bag.

The student's book links closely with photocopiable worksheets in the teacher's resource pack.

Topics in the student's book begin with the basics, such as simple sewing machine skills, pattern drafting, fabric choice, fabric construction and fabric testing. It also covers many design process skills, such as evaluating, coming up with ideas and writing up specifications. I don't feel that the book would be used rigidly from cover to cover but could be dipped into in order to assist in student's knowledge and practical skills depending on the length of time a teacher spends with a

class. Practical techniques covered such as appliqué and stencilling, would still, of course, need to be supported with clear teacher to pupil demonstrations but the book would be supportive of these techniques.

In fact, some of the topics covered in this book would not only be useful to KS3 students but also to KS4 students studying GCSE Textiles Technology. Pages of particular interest would be the ones on newer fabrics, digital printing, manufacturing specifications, bulk manufacturing methods, CAD/CAM, modern materials, quality and tolerances, production planning, costings and health and safety. These topics open students' minds to the link between products made in the classroom and those mass manufactured in industry.

The book is lively and good for student's to dip into. Although this is certainly not a difficult read, younger students and those with special educational needs would need help from the teacher in reading and understanding some of the topics covered.

Teacher's Resource Pack

This is an A4 ring binder of 160 pages, 130 of which are worksheets that are suitable for photocopying by the purchasing institution. The worksheets are easy to use with simple instructions and illustrations, tables for completion, pattern templates for student use and further back up knowledge to further support work in the

student's book.

Pupils can record their own findings on some of the worksheets that might be especially useful for pupils with special educational needs. Indeed, some of the work sheets could be done as homework exercises.

The worksheets in the teacher's resource pack support the work in the student's book and vice versa. Project work can be linked in, in particular a detailed hat project with lots of supporting worksheets, a zipped container project, a mini manufacturing project for greetings cards or beanies, and a designer bag project.

I feel that this is a very sound resource for Textiles teachers. There is something for everyone here. It would be a particularly good resource for teachers not so experienced in teaching Textiles Technology such as newly qualified teachers and supply teachers. Equally there are bits for the experienced teacher who will find some of the new more up to date knowledge and practical worksheets useful.

Create! Textiles Technology

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Price: Student Book, Teacher's Resource Pack & CD ROM £59.99; Student CD ROM plus site license £180; Student Book £9.25

Appropriate Content ✓✓✓✓

Pupil/Student Use ✓✓✓✓

Teacher Resource ✓✓✓✓

Visuals ✓✓✓✓✓

Overall Style ✓✓✓✓✓

Generic Use

One of a series ✓

Photocopiable ✓

Pupil/student activities ✓

Cross-curricular