Say Cheese! Design and Technology Pack

Reviewed by Matthew Pendleton

The Say Cheese! Design and Technology Pack is a teacher resource containing factual information and design ideas aimed at Key Stage 2 children. Many of the activities featured have been linked well to the National Curriculum and some could be easily adapted to fit with QCA planning. Also supplied with the pack is a CD Rom, containing a video clip of the manufacture of cheese and a glossary of terms associated with cheese.
The book is split into four sections:

* Background Information
* Design and Technology Ideas
* Photocopiable Sheets
* Further Information

As you would imagine from the title of the pack, the content of this resource is aimed at promoting the benefits of cheese. In doing this, the authors have provided a considerable amount of factual information that is useful to further develop a teacher's own knowledge of the food. This information has also been included in a basic form that would be more suitable for the children to access. The activities are well aimed at Key Stage 2.

Although many of the ideas included in the pack are well suited to Key Stage 2, there are few that could be considered as ground breaking in terms of originality. Those that are would be more difficult to integrate into planning and cover few of the Design and Technology objectives. However, the pack does place considerable importance on the need for safe and hygienic practise, including sections for this purpose in lesson plans.

In terms of factual information, the pack is extremely useful. The detail provided is probably too advanced for a typical Key Stage 2 class, but will ensure that the teacher is well prepared for those in the class who want to know more and always have a tricky question to ask. Key Stage 3 teachers may find that they are able to use this section of the resource for their own purposes.

The lessons included in the pack are well planned with a brief lesson plan for each. The lesson plans contain information on Health and Safety and also ideas for how the activity could be extended for the more able. The area where the pack is most lacking is in its links with other curriculum areas. Many schools are finding less and less time to deliver Design and Technology effectively; linking with other subject areas is how we can reduce this effect. In producing this resource pack many areas have been missed. Letters are used to introduce children to design tasks, these could have been planned and included as part of a Literacy based task. Also, the video clip contains a lot of information on the use of micro organisms in the manufacturing process of cheese, this could have linked well with Science units. The video clip will not be of great benefit if you do not have access to a data projector or large screen monitor, as it is supplied as a Media file on CD-Rom instead of a video cassette.

Say Cheese! is quite a concise resource. The information is easy to read and quite well presented. The layout of the book is simple to follow and subheadings make it easy to flick through to find what you want. The graphics may be basic but this does not detract from the overall appearance of the resource. As a free resource, teachers will no doubt be able to find useful information to support their pupils from within this pack. Some of the ideas for Design and Technology, particularly working with food are worth trying but the material would need to be adapted meet your own requirements rather than straight from the book.

Say Cheese! Design and Technology Pack
Author: British Cheese Board
Publisher: Magenta Project Management

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