

SGET 700: Tools for the Development of Instruction
Buddy Check #2 <http://earthprocesses.nstranix.com/>

Educational Design

Name of Reviewer: Alanna Seid

Name of Site Author: Nicole Stranix

1. Comment on Home Page effectiveness. Is the home page effective?

Do the graphics engage the user? Do they reinforce the site's objectives? Is an overarching question or purpose evident when first entering the site. If a splash page is used, does it add value to the site. Do the graphics and layout draw you in? Is there any addition or change that would improve the page in these areas?

The homepage identifies the purpose of the website, her second grade science unit. She included the disclaimer for the project and added an image that relates to the content. There are no overarching questions or site objectives on the homepage of the website, but Nicole does have an Introduction page that summarizes the purpose of the website and the unit.

2. Comment on home page cognitive effect. Are site objectives clear? Based only on the home page, give a brief description of the sites objectives and purpose are. Is the content written in clear, concise, and age appropriate language? Is an attempt made to relate to user interests and goals. Is that effective? What changes would improve the home pages effectiveness in these areas?

Nicole doesn't have her site objectives listed here, but does have a Introduction page that summarizes the unit. The purpose of the website/unit is to:

Inform, extend and enhance the current unit implemented in second grade 4 Major Focuses

A. Layers of the Earth

B. Different land and water features on the Earth's Surface.

C. The different natural processes that change our Earth's surface.

D. Investigate and design solutions to solve the problems that these changes cause to people.

My advice would be to maybe combine these two pages into one page where all the information is found in one location. This is definitely age appropriate and is related to the goal of the website and the pages that are made throughout the website.

3. Comment on the Learning Activities included in this site. Do they closely relate to the site's objectives and audience? Are they easy to locate? What do you feel are the requisite skills that must be addressed in order to reach the objective? Are activities developed to build on prior skills? Are they scaffolded to lead learners from basic to advanced skills? Will examples or a model be included? Would this benefit the site or be unnecessary?

The Learning Activities are easily located on each page of the website. Nicole added student samples as well to help students with a visual of what she is looking for. Her activities have students up and moving, while communicating and working together. Students will build on their skill sets and will start at a basic understanding, and advance high level questioning and understanding.

4. Comment on the Activity/Process of this site. Is each step of the process stated clearly and accurately defined? Are they sequenced so that so that needed knowledge/skills would logically be acquired by the user? Are directions accurate, explicit, clearly stated, and written in age-appropriate language. Does this site include references to an example or model? Would doing so improve the process? As a user of the site, give feedback as to directions or other verbiage.

After each page, students will need the knowledge previously learned, to apply it to the new information. They are building to a bigger understanding of how the earth works. Nicole has examples of student work to help students improve their understanding, and process the information. Her language and references are grade appropriate. She has great videos to help reinforce the information she is teaching.

5. Comment on the effectiveness of the site relating to desired outcomes. Are outcomes clearly stated. Is this done in a way that users will readily understand? Are outcomes closely related to learning objectives and activities. Do desired outcomes build from basic to more advanced?

Nicole has is broken down on each page for the four focuses what she wants her students to understand, and what activities they need to complete. Her activities build their knowledge from basic to more advanced by the end of each lesson/section of the unit.

6. Comment on the evaluation instruments included in this site. Are evaluation tools easy to find? Is the language used clear and appropriate to the audience? Is evaluation criteria specific and easy to interpret? Are there additions or changes that would aide you as a learner? Are there alternate evaluation tools that might benefit you as a learner?

I could not find evaluation tools on her website. Nicole needs to add rubrics to her assignments she is going to grade.