



Dare to Differentiate: Content-Based Enrichment Strategies for Upper Elementary and Middle School Science

Brendan D. Miller, Colleen Willard Holt

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This book includes two models of differentiated science units. The book also includes numerous supporting materials for differentiated units such as sample contracts and rubrics. I have developed these models by utilizing strategies that best support content-based subjects (e.g. science) as opposed to skills-based subjects (e.g. math). My desire has been to create a more enriching environment for gifted and talented students within my heterogeneous science classes. The manuscript for this book was generated as a result of graduate coursework in the area of gifted education under Professor Colleen Willard-Holt. My research on differentiation included the concept of curriculum compacting as advocated by Sally Reis, Joseph Renzulli, and Susan Winebrenner. Based upon my coursework and research, I have developed the enrichment activities contained in this book. I hope that educators will use this book as a model for differentiating their own curriculum to better meet the needs of gifted and talented students within their classes. Sincerely, Brendan Miller. Written by two experts on gifted education, upper elementary and middle school enrichment, and differentiated science education. The enrichment materials included in this book have been extensively field tested in middle school biology courses. Detailed information is presented on how to provide a differentiated science curriculum to gifted students in the regular classroom. Topics such as Selecting Students for Enrichment, Curriculum Compacting, Assessment of Content Proficiency and Designing an Independent Study Unit are included in the Overview. Detailed instructional units on Invertebrates and Genetics are presented along with an Independent Study Contract, Daily Progress Log, Evaluation Tables and Questions, Unit Goals, Interdisciplinary Webs, and Differentiated Lesson Plans. The final section contains an excellent essay on Middle School Programs for Gifted Students by Professor Colleen Willard-Holt.

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