



SCIENCE DISSECTED

Using Science Daily Reviews to Prepare for State Exams

The Southern Nevada Regional Professional Development has created *Science Daily Review* PowerPoint presentations to help teachers prepare their students for the science portion of the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) and the 8th Grade Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT). This valuable resource was developed in two versions to accommodate teachers at the middle school and high school levels.

The *Science Daily Review* contains questions that assess the four strands of the Nevada State Science Standards: Physical Science, Life Science, Earth Science, and the Nature of Science. Each slide contains a question that corresponds to a particular benchmark within the standards. The notes section of each slide lists the state standard, the benchmark, the DOK level, and a detailed explanation of the correct answer to the question. The *Science Daily Review* contains questions that are written in a format that is similar to the items that the students will see on the state exams.

At the high school level, the *Science Daily Review* could serve several purposes. It would be most useful for ninth and tenth grade teachers or those who teach the upper grades with non-proficient students to prepare them for the Science HSPE. Teachers in other courses can choose to use specific questions on their exams or as a review. For example, a Chemistry or Physics teacher could use the questions from the Physical Science strand. The middle school version of the *Science Daily Review* could also be used at the high school level as a pre-assessment tool for incoming freshmen.

At the middle school level, the *Science Daily Review* would be most beneficial to 8th grade teachers to prepare their students for the Science CRT. Teachers in sixth and seventh grade could also use questions from the content strands that correspond with their grade level. For example, sixth grade teachers might find the Life Science and Nature of Science slides useful in developing assessments and use the PowerPoint with their classes to promote long-term memory review of the material covered throughout the year. A seventh grade teacher would most likely be interested in the Earth Science and Nature of Science strands. The middle school version of the *Science Daily Review* differs from the high school version because it contains constructed response items. Developing correct answers for constructed response items is a skill that most students need to practice. The notes section of the PowerPoint provides teachers with a sample answer that corresponds to the 3-point rubric used at the state level.

In addition to the Science Daily Review Presentations highlighted in this newsletter, there are many other resources to help prepare students for the HSPE and CRT available on RPD's website.

View these resources at www.rpd.net (Select > **Science** > **NHSPE** or **Science CRT**)

The *Targeted Intervention for Proficiency in Science (TIPS)* website also provides a wealth of information to teachers and students.

View the TIPS resource at www.rpd.net (Select > **Science** > **Science-TIPS**)

Related Link:

Nevada Department of Education's Assessment, Program Accountability, Curriculum Website <http://nde.doe.nv.gov/APAC.htm>

Archived Issues of Science Dissected, <http://www.rpd.net/link.news.php?type=sciencedis>

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