Checklist for Evaluating Informational Literature

Evaluating Format and Visual Appeal

Is the format visually appealing?	Yes	No
Is there an attractive cover?	☐	☐
Are the font, letter size, and type large, simple, and easy to read?	☐	☐
Are there high-quality, appealing photographs and/or illustrations in which appropriate media have been used?	☐	☐
Do illustrations contribute to the visual appeal of the book?	☐	☐
Are the illustrations clear and large but not overly crowded?	☐	☐
Do the illustrations appropriately explain and enhance the content?	☐	☐
Do illustrations depict accurate size relationships?	☐	☐
Are labels and captions simple yet sufficient?	☐	☐
Is there a wide variety of illustrative materials (maps, charts, and graphs) that serve to clarify and extend the text?	☐	☐
Does the text layout (headings, sidebars, and/or other visual features, such as special fonts or letter size) serve to highlight key information for readers?	☐	☐
Is there an appropriate amount of text and illustrations on each page?	☐	☐
Is there a table of contents, index, and/or glossary?	☐	☐

Evaluating Accuracy and Authenticity

Is the book accurate?	Yes	No
Is information about the authors' qualifications or process for research of the topic included?	☐	☐
Does the book have a recent copyright date and/or is the information based on up-to-date research?	☐	☐
Do illustrations accurately depict the text?	☐	☐
Can facts presented in the text be verified with other authoritative sources?	☐	☐
Are animals depicted accurately without being given human characteristics?	☐	☐
Do authors refrain from making value-laden statements and/or statements of opinion, rather than fact?	☐	☐
Are statements of opinion clearly stated as such?	☐	☐
If the book is a blend of fact and fiction, is it clear which parts are fact and which are fiction?	☐	☐

Evaluating Writing Style and Appropriateness

Is the writing style engaging?	Yes	No
Does the author draw the reader in with an engaging lead?	☐	☐
Are ideas logically ordered?	☐	☐
Is the background knowledge of the reader considered?	☐	☐
Are new ideas presented in a way that helps children make connections to what they already know?	☐	☐
Is the language appropriate for the children?	☐	☐
Does the author explain difficult concepts clearly and simply?	☐	☐
Are there any interactive elements that involve the reader?	☐	☐
Are new terms explained, highlighted, or defined?	☐	☐
Do the sound and meaning devices employed by the author enhance the rhythm and flow of the language and the child's understanding of the content?	☐	☐
Is the author's choice of text structure appropriate for presenting the content?	☐	☐

Evaluating Potential Content and Curricular Connections

Does the text lend itself to both content and curricular connections?	Yes	No
Is the text is aligned to standards and curricular components?	☐	☐
Can the text be used across the curriculum in conjunction with other content areas?	☐	☐
Does the text relate to topics and themes that serve to build children's knowledge base?	☐	☐