

Uncovering Student Ideas in Science, Volume 2: 25 More Formative Assessment Probes

By Page Keeley, Francis Eberle, Joyce Tugel



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If Hollywood were filming this sequel, the studio would call it Probes 2: More Battles Against Misunderstandings. Like the blockbuster that came before it, Volume 2 of Uncovering Student Ideas in Science will reveal the surprising misconceptions students bring to the classroom so you can adjust your teaching to replace those ideas with a sound understanding of science. The field-tested features from Volume 1 are all here. The 25 new probes are short, easy-toadminister activities designed to determine what students at every grade level know (or think they know) about core science topics. The probes come all ready to reproduce. Accompanying teacher materials explain science content, note links to national standards, and suggest grade-appropriate ways to present material so students will learn it accurately. But where Volume 1 emphasized physical science, Volume 2 covers more life science and Earth and space science probes. New topic areas include forms of matter, changes in matter, living things and life processes, rocks and landforms, the day/night cycle, and objects in the night sky. Volume 2 also suggests ways to embed the probes throughout the course of your instruction, not just when starting a unit or topic.



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Editorial Review

Review

2008 Winner of the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Association of Educational Publishers. -- Association of Educational Publishers

Formative Assessment at its best. I like how these books are tutorials with different "teacher talk" for the audience, elementary, middle, and high school. I like this so much I had every teacher in my PD class buy them. I will be buying the third one. --Reviewed by: Nora McDevitt (Youngstown, OH) on September 1, 2008

Use in a hands-on workshop. I used the series Uncovering Student Ideas in Science in two of my workshops on lecture-free teaching. These sessions were for high school and middle school science teachers. In one instance, the teachers (with whom I had worked previously) picked one of the formative assessments, tried it in their classrooms before the scheduled workshop date, and reported to the rest of the group about how it worked. In the second instance, I brought the books to the workshop and gave the teachers about 30 minutes to find an assessment appropriate for one of their classes, make copies for the other participants, and try the assessment on the workshop participants. In both cases each presentation was followed by critique and suggestions from other workshop participants. --Reviewed by: Bonnie Wood (Presque Isle, ME) on July 24, 2008

About the Author

Page Keeley is senior science program director, Francis Eberle is executive director, and Joyce Tugel is science specialist at the Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance, where they develop, coordinate, and implement science education initiatives at the state and national levels. Combined, they have more than 35 years of teaching experience in middle and high school science. Keeley and Eberle have also served as adjunct faculty in the University of Maine system. Their work with teachers has covered professional development, leadership, standards, curriculum development, assessment, and school reform.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mark Fetter:

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Sharon Broome:

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