# 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? | ☐ | ☐ |