

Kate Norton: Hello, my name is Kate Norton. Thanks for allowing me to present to you today.

Kate Norton: Today I'll be discussing the middle school program for English language learners called Time Zones. Before we get started just wanted to show you a very brief glimpse of what you're about to see in this new state of the art program.

Kate Norton: So what sets Time Zones, apart from everything else out there.

Kate Norton: First thing is that Time Zones uses cross curricular content to enable learners to bring the world to the classroom.

Kate Norton: Students and teachers explore real people in places from around the world and the important issues that affect all of us.

Kate Norton: There's a wide range of topics we cover like history, art, science, adventure, culture, and nature. Students are learning something new about the world and are asked to understand, evaluate and, finally, to communicate these ideas in English.

Kate Norton: The National Geographic exclusive content is not only memorable it's Google-able, this is another thing that sets us apart.

Kate Norton: National Geographic explorers are real scientists, photographers, and researchers living around the world. Their presence in the book is an entry point to explore content from different perspectives.

Kate Norton: Students can look these folks up in real time and figure out more. It makes them hungry to find out what's going on in the world, right now.

Kate Norton: Another thing that sets Time Zones apart, is that it is culturally responsive. Your students will see themselves in the pages of each book.

Kate Norton: There's no organization more culturally responsive and culturally aware than National Geographic. We were the first ones that brought the beauty and wonder of other people and places to the living rooms and the kitchens of the world.

Kate Norton: And this has been our lifeblood for the last hundred and 50 years. Research tells us

Kate Norton: that culturally responsive materials help activate prior knowledge, it builds background, and most importantly, it makes the content relatable.

Kate Norton: 80% of what is learned in a day is forgotten in the first 24 hours, but if we learn something new, you can relate it to something that really matters to us. We will retain that knowledge, and that is our goal.

Kate Norton: Another thing that makes Time Zones special is that this is an integrated skills program. This means that the core skills of reading, writing listening and speaking all balanced in our book.

Kate Norton: Time Zones is a five level series that is leveled by language proficiency.

Kate Norton: One thing that's unique to Time Zones is that we have a starter book or a newcomer book, this is a short level for true beginners.

Kate Norton: The book starts off with basic classroom vocabulary, so that students with interrupted learning can function. From there, we go to greetings. I love the fist bump down at the bottom. There short clear lessons throughout the program.

Kate Norton: From there, the next units cover everything from basic greetings "hello, how are you" to

colors, numbers, animals,

Kate Norton: celebrations, things in the home,

Kate Norton: and even telling time. So this Time Zones starter level is survival English, and from there, you can scaffold up to the other levels.

Kate Norton: The Time Zones starter book is short and sweet. It also has interactive technology and it's one of the only newcomer books out there that does have interactive digital.

Kate Norton: So, now that we discussed the starter level, let's take a look at the instructional path for the other levels of the program.

Kate Norton: Each unit has a fixed instructional pack. We start out with the unit opener and we move through language focus, real world communication, then reading, comprehension, vocabulary and writing, and finally the video and review section. Today we'll be looking at Level one unit three.

Kate Norton: So all of our units start out with an eye catching photograph to grab attention, to spark interest, to get students really into the conversation into what's going on.

Kate Norton: From there we move to preview activities, and the preview activities introduce students to the unit theme and preview the language and vocabulary found in the unit.

Kate Norton: I also want to draw your attention to the bottom right hand corner. These are our unit goals and these keep classrooms focused and tell the learner what they're going to learn in each unit.

Kate Norton: So this particular unit is all about describing animals on land and in the water, and how those animals might use camouflage to hide their presence. We will also use the language for describing where things are, really important part of English in any language, for that matter.

Kate Norton: Every language begins with a language focus, which presents and practices, the unit language goal. Language goals may be grammatical, lexical or functional.

Kate Norton: The grammar chart activities help students understand and use new language correctly.

Kate Norton: From there, we move to the real world, and the real world uses short video clips to look at the unit theme from different perspectives.

Kate Norton: In this case, looking at life in Antarctica. For the sake of time of this video, i'm not going to play any of the videos today but they're pretty fantastic National Geographic images and content.

Kate Norton: Critical thinking and communication activity sections or next. These are open ended opportunities to use new language and vocabulary naturally. Critical thinking is something that really has got to be taught. It has got to be practiced so that it becomes second nature.

Kate Norton: Next, we come to the reading section. The reading section presents a high interest article containing information that's been adapted from either National Geographic or other sources that introduce new vocabulary and develop reading comprehension skills.

Kate Norton: From there, we work more with our comprehension question. Our comprehension questions check learners understanding of the reading passage; questions are modeled after tasks commonly found on language exams.

Kate Norton: And again, more critical thinking questions and graphic organizers help students interact thoughtfully with the reading passage that they've just worked through.

Kate Norton: Vocabulary sections explicitly practice strategies for learning new words.

Kate Norton: And then writing activities help learners' confidence in using new language.

Kate Norton: Next we move to the video portion. The level appropriate video lessons also help reinforce and consolidate new language at the end of every single unit.

Kate Norton: Review sections provide extra practice at the end of the unit and self checkboxes move learners to independence and ownership.

Kate Norton: So, now that we've taken a look at one unit from the student book, I want to show you some of the other program components for Time Zones.

Kate Norton: For students, we have student books. We've got print workbooks but we've also got online practice with ebooks embedded there as well.

Kate Norton: For teachers, there is a print teachers book also comes online. There's the classroom presentation tool which I'll talk about in a minute. There's a teacher companion site and there's also a learning management platform available for online practice users.

Kate Norton: All components of our program are available as print or digital options. This allows you to decide if you want everything in print, if you want everything in digital, or if you want a blended program that is going to work best for your classroom.

Kate Norton: Our digital platform for Time Zones is device agnostic. It runs on desktop, laptop, tablet, and we even have an APP for cell phone use. Let's take a look at the platform.

Kate Norton: The online practice platform offers students and teachers additional tools for instruction and learning. It reinforces target language and give students more practice. All trackable in the online gradebook for instructors.

Kate Norton: Teachers can easily manage all of their courses in one location.

Kate Norton: The classroom presentation tool is an interactive version of the student book with all of the audio and video resources at point of use.

Kate Norton: Within the classroom presentation tool, teachers have access to all student books, workbooks, grammar books, providing teachers an easy way to present material, both in the classroom as well as virtually.

Kate Norton: Assignments can be created for students to provide additional practice. Each unit has multiple practice opportunities, whether it's for listening, vocabulary, or grammar. Students can even record themselves speaking,

Kate Norton: and then teachers can listen to that anytime they please. I really like this for IEPs, where you can see how a student was speaking at the beginning of the year and then compare to how they're speaking at the end of the year. I think this is pretty powerful.

Kate Norton: Additional resources are available on the teacher companion site page. The teacher companion site is a resource that contains audio and video scripts, pacing guides, extra worksheets, assessment, professional development webinars, an English language learning PD blog, and so much more.

Kate Norton: I know you've seen a lot of information today about Time Zones. I know that this is a program that is truly going to help your language learners gain what they need to be proficient in English. I thank you for your time.