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**MEDT 6401**
**3.8 Website Evaluation**

The website I chose is a travel website, called Lonely Planet. Lonely Planet also has a television show on PBS, as well as publishes a very informative and up to date travel guides to all regions of the world.

The reason I chose this particular site was because I have created a WebQuest in another class using this site as a reference, and I thought it would be helpful to explore other parts of the site as well as evaluate the site to see if it is effective for curriculum purposes.

The content of the site offers travel advice, maps, history, suggested tours, transportation, and general overviews for every Spanish speaking country (as well as many other places around the world). In each level of the Georgia Performance Standards for Modern Languages, there are culture standards. The information offered at the Lonely Planet site offers students a reliable source for travel and historical information. Since the site is a travel site, it is also offers advice that encourages travelers to go to these places. Many times in researching travel in Spanish speaking countries, it is easy to find advice that discourages travel to certain places, and that can perpetuate stigmas surrounding these countries.

The Lonely Planet website can be used to study history, travel, and geography of important Spanish speaking countries, cities, and historical sites.

**Title of Software/Website**:http://www.lonelyplanet.com/south-america

**Intended Grade Level:**    9-12

**Content Area:** Spanish

| SA | A | D | SD | NA | Content |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| x | | | | | The content is accurate. |
| x | | | | | The objectives meet my curriculum needs. |
| x | | | | | The reading level and vocabulary is appropriate for the intended user. |
| x | | | | | The website/software has various levels of instruction for varied abilities. |
| **SA** | **A** | **D** | **SD** | **NA** | **Technical Aspects** |
| | x | | | | Uses the unique capabilities of the computer. |
| x | | | | | Sound can be turned off. |
| | | | | x | Maintains a record of student performance/progress. |
| | | | | x | Instructions are clear. |
| x | | | | | User can skip over familiar instructions. |
| **SA** | **A** | **D** | **SD** | **NA** | **Design** |
| x | | | | | Graphics and sound add to effectiveness of the program. |
| x | | | | | Screen format is well planned and consistent. |
| | | | | x | Difficulty of instruction adjusts according to student response. |
| x | | | | | Feedback is effective and appropriate. |
| x | | | | | Students can access menu to change activities. |
| | | | | x | Responds to errors effectively. |
| **SA** | **A** | **D** | **SD** | **NA** | **Support** |
| x | | | | | Documentation is clear and comprehensive. |
| x | | | | | Print materials are provided for students. |
| | | | | x | Additional learning activities are suggested in the documentation. |
| **SA** | **A** | **D** | **SD** | **NA** | **Motivation** |
| x | | | | | Easy to use. |
| x | | | | | The students will like it. |

## Three things I liked about the website/software:

- The website is colorful and has a lot of wonderful pictures.

- The content of the website encourages readers to travel and is easy to read and understand.

- The website contains a lot of information about every Spanish speaking country.

**Three things I disliked about the website/software:**
- The website has too many advertisements.

- The website is easy to navigate, but the information is broken up and there is only a small amount of text on each page.

- Many times the advertisements on the site detract from the overall visually appeal and ease of use of the site.

## My Overall Recommendation:

Although this site is not intended for instructional purposes, I would recommend using this site while studying geography, history, and important places in the Spanish speaking world. The site offers a lot of genral information, so I think it would be best used in conjunction with other sites that offer more specific information, depending on what the teacher wants the students to learn about a particular country.

I think the site would be useful for introductory overviews of information about Spanish speaking countries and regions of the world. I would recommend showing the site to students during whole group instruction before letting students go to the site and try to search for information themselves, so that the teacher can give tips for best ways to navigate the site and distinguishing advertisements from information offered on the site. I would also recommend the teacher finds links to specific areas of the site for students, depending on the country being studied, so that the students do not have to start from the homepage and navigate through three or four pages before they find the information they are looking for.