

Unit of inquiry planner

(Primary years)

OVERVIEW

Grade/Year level:	Fourth Grade	Collaborative teaching team: Ms. Zamora, Ms. Hornickel, Ms. Dugan-Diaz, Mr. Estrada, Ms. Estrada-Garza, Mr. Menjivar
Date:	September 8th – October 16th	Timeline: (continued investigation, revisiting once, or numerous times, discrete beginning and ending, investigating in parallel with others)

Transdisciplinary theme

(Type Transdisciplinary theme here.)

How the World Works: An inquiry into the natural world and its laws; the interaction between the natural world (physical and biological) and human societies; how humans use their understanding of scientific principles; the impact of scientific and technological advances on society and on the environment.

Central idea

Choices affect our environment.

Lines of inquiry

- A choice is
- Human factors cause the environment to change
- Connection between choices and the direction of society

Key concepts

Change, Causation, Perspective

Related concepts

Choice, Values

Learner profile attributes

Caring, Reflective

Approaches to learning

- Research Skills

Action

**Incorporate technology to provide a voice for the students: chat in MS Teams, Peardeck, Flipgrid videos for answering questions, assessments, CFU*

- Incorporate Choice boards for CFU, assessments and assignments.
- Students analyze their data with the teacher and create SMART goals.
- Students can present their work in an active way: presentations, debates. Student graded rubric will be provided in advance.

Prompts: Overview

Transdisciplinary theme

Which parts of the transdisciplinary theme will the unit of inquiry focus on?

Central idea

Does the central idea invite inquiry and support students' conceptual understandings of the transdisciplinary theme?

Lines of inquiry

What teacher questions and provocations will inform the lines of inquiry?

Do the lines of inquiry:

- clarify and develop understanding of the central idea?
- define the scope of the inquiry and help to focus learning and teaching?

Key concepts

Do the key concepts focus the direction of the inquiry and provide opportunities to make connections across, between and beyond subjects?

Related concepts

Do the related concepts provide a lens for conceptual understandings within a specific subject?

Learner profile attributes

What opportunities will there be to develop, demonstrate and reinforce the learner profile?

Approaches to learning

What authentic opportunities are there for students to develop and demonstrate approaches to learning?

Action

What opportunities are there for building on prior learning to support potential student-initiated action?

REFLECTING AND PLANNING

Initial reflections

- Student needs more opportunities to be exposed to activities where they have to make choices that are conducive towards accomplishing their academic and behavioral goals.
- Perhaps set up monthly schedule for students to do research at the library so they can have additional time to work on their projects.

Prior learning

- Students will have the opportunity to view several pictures depicting the effects on the environment due to human choices.

Connections: Transdisciplinary and past

- Connections to scientific contributions and its impact.
- Connections to the influence of climate due to human choices.

Learning goals and success criteria

Teacher questions

- What makes a choice important?
- Why do we need to make choices?
- How can choices create change?
- How might we work together to make partnered choice?
- How can choices be pertinent?
- What choices have society made that has impacted it?

Student questions

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Prompts: Reflecting and planning

Initial reflections

How can our initial reflections inform all learning and teaching in this unit of inquiry?

Prior learning

How are we assessing students' prior knowledge, conceptual understandings and skills?

How are we using data and evidence of prior learning to inform planning?

How does our planning embrace student language profiles?

Connections: Transdisciplinary and past

Connections to past and future learning, inside and outside the programme of inquiry

What connections are there to learning within and outside the unit of inquiry?

What opportunities are there for students to develop conceptual understandings to support the transfer of learning across, between and beyond subjects?

How can we ensure that learning is purposeful and connects to local and global challenges and opportunities?

Learning goals and success criteria

What is it we want students to know, understand and be able to do? How are learning goals and success criteria co-constructed between teachers and students?

Teacher questions

What teacher questions and provocations will inform the lines of inquiry?

Student questions

What student questions, prior knowledge, existing theories, experiences and interests will inform the lines of inquiry?

DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING

Unit of inquiry and/or subject specific inquiry (inside/outside programme of inquiry)

Transdisciplinary theme/Central idea:	How the world works: Choices affect our environment		
Collaborative teaching team:		Grade/Year level:	Date:

Designing engaging learning experiences

- Read a louds will be conducted to facilitate group discussions.
 - Giving students choices to work on different activities (imagine learning, learning a-z, myOn, epic, or teacher designed Activities to show their learning).
- Utilize digital resources to create lessons such as videos, brainpop, quizizz, nearpod, and peardeck.

Supporting student agency

- Gave students choices during lessons that would show their learning through various digital methods such as Quizizz, Peardeck, BrainPop, Hub, and Clever resources such as science fusion, discovery education, etc.
- Gave students choices when doing science experiments to prove their understanding of the concepts.

Teacher and student questions

- What do you think is going to be the outcome of this experiment?
- What can I change in the experiment?
- What would happen if you change _____? What will be the effect?

Ongoing assessment

- Assessments through quizizz, exit tickets, end of unit assessments, CFUs.

Making flexible use of resources

- Used district-approved websites to provide interactive lessons for students and increase engagement.
- Used resources from students' homes to design different science experiments, adapting to what they had available.

Student self-assessment and peer feedback

- Constant CFUs through quizizz, imagine math, imagine literacy, learning A-Z, and HUB resources.
- Checking usage of imagine math and imagine literacy on a weekly basis.

Ongoing reflections for all teachers

- Teacher discussed different topics related to daily life: school, college, family environment, interactions with peers.
- Carried out whole group discussions where everyone's opinion was valued and heard.

Additional subject specific reflections

- Connected lesson to central idea and lines of inquiry through discussions.
- Discussed the impact that our choices have on society, especially related to how each one of us can impact and make a difference in helping stop the spread of the coronavirus.

Prompts: Designing and implementing



Designing engaging learning experiences

What experiences will facilitate learning?

For all learning this means:

- developing questions, provocations and experiences that support knowledge and conceptual understandings
- creating authentic opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate approaches to learning and attributes of the learner profile
- building in flexibility to respond to students' interests, inquiries, evolving theories and actions
- integrating languages to support multilingualism
- identifying opportunities for independent and collaborative learning, guided and scaffolded learning, and learning extension.



Supporting student agency

How do we recognize and support student agency in learning and teaching?

For all learning this means:

- involving students as active participants in, and as co-constructors of, their learning
- developing students' capacity to plan, reflect and assess, in order to self-regulate and self-adjust learning
- supporting student-initiated inquiry and action.



Questions

Teacher questions

What additional teacher questions and provocations are emerging from students' evolving theories?

Student questions

What student questions are emerging from students' evolving theories?



Ongoing assessment

What evidence will we gather about students' emerging knowledge, conceptual understandings and skills?

How are we monitoring and documenting learning against learning goals and success criteria?

How are we using ongoing assessment to inform planning, and the grouping and regrouping of students?



Making flexible use of resources

How will resources add value and purpose to learning?

For all learning this means:

- the thoughtful use of resources, both in and beyond the learning community to enhance and extend learning. This might include time, people, places, technologies, learning spaces and physical materials.



Student self-assessment and peer feedback

What opportunities are there for students to receive teacher and peer feedback?

How do students engage with this feedback to self-assess and self-adjust their learning?



Ongoing reflections

For all teachers

- How are we responding to students' emerging questions, theories, inquiries and interests throughout the inquiry?
- How are we supporting opportunities for student-initiated action throughout the inquiry?
- How can we ensure that learning is purposeful and authentic and/or connects to real-life challenges and opportunities?
- How are we nurturing positive relationships between home, family and school as a basis for learning, health and well-being?



Additional subject-specific reflections

Inside or outside the programme of inquiry

- What opportunities are there for students to make connections to the central idea and lines of inquiry or the programme of inquiry?
- What opportunities are there for students to develop knowledge, conceptual understandings and skills to support the transfer of learning across, between and beyond subjects?

REFLECTING

Transdisciplinary theme/Central idea:			
Collaborative teaching team:		Grade/Year level:	Date:

Teacher reflections

Student reflections

Assessment reflections

Prompts: Reflecting

Teacher reflections

How did the strategies we used throughout the unit help to develop and evidence students' understanding of the central idea?

What learning experiences best supported students' development and demonstration of the attributes of the learner profile and approaches to learning?

What evidence do we have that students are developing knowledge, conceptual understandings and skills to support the transfer of learning across, between and beyond subjects?

To what extent have we strengthened transdisciplinary connections through collaboration among members of the teaching team?

What did we discover about the process of learning that will inform future learning and teaching?

Student reflections

What student-initiated inquiries arose and how did they inform the process of inquiry? What adjustments were made, and how did this enrich learning?

How are students supported in having voice, choice and ownership in the unit of inquiry? (For example, through: co-constructing learning goals and success criteria, being engaged in student-initiated inquiries and action, being involved in self-assessing and self-regulating, co-designing learning spaces and so on).

How have these experiences impacted on how students feel about their learning? (For example, through: developing and demonstrating attributes of learner profile and approaches to learning, developing understanding of the central idea, achieving learning goals, taking action and so on).

Assessment reflections

How effective was our monitoring, documenting and measuring of learning informing our understanding of student learning?

What evidence did we gather about students' knowledge, conceptual understandings and skills?

How will we share this learning with the learning community?

Notes