

Unit of inquiry planner

(Primary years)

OVERVIEW

Grade/Year level:	Pre-k	Collaborative teaching team:	Mrs. Gutierrez, Ms. Rodriguez, Mrs. Andrade, Mrs. Petito
Date:	Jan. - April	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

Central idea

Understanding the natural and social worlds.

Lines of inquiry

- Changes and patterns of the earth, sky and time.
- Making connections within the natural and social characteristics of organisms.

Key concepts

Form, Function, Change

Related concepts

Interconnectedness

Learner profile attributes

Inquirer, Thinker, Communicator, Courageous

Approaches to learning

- Social Skills- Speaking- sharing personal experiences/ Turn -Talk
- Research Skills- Students will have the opportunity to observe organisms and life cycles of butterflies.

Action

- In response to the world pandemic, students have taken action in class following health guidelines and have shared them with their siblings.(Wash your hands, wear a mask)
- Teacher will support students by researching on their desired learning.

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

- We can make connections to previous unit lines of inquiry for students to make connections to new unit.

Prior learning

- Group discussions guided by teacher focusing on previous unit of inquiry.
- Use KWL from previous unit to connect to new lines of inquiry and central idea.

Connections: Transdisciplinary and past

- Authentic links to past reading alouds on life cycles and environments.
- Previous unit lines of inquiry: Demonstrating social interaction with others.
- Explore the diversity of patterns in the natural and social world.

Learning goals and success criteria

- Students will be able to identify, compare and discuss earth materials and their uses.
- Student will be able to identify characteristics similarities and differences of people in different cultures.
- Student will identify and describe characteristics of organisms to their environments.
- Student will be able to describe lifecycles and organisms.
- Students will be able to compare ways that young animals resemble their parents.

Teacher questions

- What are earth materials properties and their uses?
- What are the life cycles of organisms and their relationships in their environments.
- What are some similarities and differences among communities.
- What are some roles and duties in the community and their members.

Student questions

- What's a role?

- What's a characteristic?
- How do you compare?

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:	Understanding the natural and social worlds.		
Collaborative teaching team:	Ms. Rodriguez, Mrs. Petito, Mrs. Gutierrez, Mrs. Andrade	Grade/Year level: Pre-k	Date: Jan.- April



Designing engaging learning experiences

- Workstations in classroom will be set up for students to explore each unit. Materials and equipment will be added and removed as needed throughout the unit.
- Students in the science lab will experience and explore items of natural world in the science lab, outside with culinary teacher, in class through books, pictures, songs and technology.
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Supporting student agency

- Student beginning questions and experiences as well as their developing understandings will inform the planned learning experiences.



Teacher and student questions

- **Teacher:** Can you share what you know about cycles?
- Can you name something that has a pattern?
- **Student:** Is there a pattern in the sky?



Ongoing assessment

- Documenting- Teacher will document student who are responding.
- Teacher will also monitor student drawing reflections on patterns, cycles.



Making flexible use of resources

- A wide range of fiction and nonfiction books will be provided for students to support the central idea.
- Technology teacher will support students with seeing life cycles occurring using technology.
- Art- Teacher will support students through art using patterns.
- Dance Teacher will support students showing patterns in dance moves and music.

 **Student self-assessment and peer feedback**

Students will use their learning writing journal to document their reflections.

 **Ongoing reflections for all teachers**

 **Additional subject specific reflections**

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