

PYP Units of Inquiry

The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme is committed to structured inquiry for learning. Six transdisciplinary themes provide a framework for exploration of knowledge. In the process, students explore the subject areas, develop important concepts, acquire essential skills and develop particular attitudes to learn how to take socially responsible actions.



Grades: First, Second, Multi-Age

I Knowledge	<p>How We Express Ourselves Central Idea: A culture can express its beliefs and values through folklore. Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meanings or lessons learned or portrayed in various fairytales/folktales • How fairytales/folktales around the world portray and preserve cultural values and beliefs • Similarities and differences between fairytales and folktales from different cultures
Key and Related Concepts	reflection, perspective, communication, transformation, interpretation
Approaches to Learning	<p>communication skills: reading, listening research skills: recording, organizing</p>
Attitudes	curiosity, appreciation
Learner Profile	open-minded
II Knowledge	<p>Where We Are In Place and Time Central Idea: The need for change may cause people to immigrate. Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The life of indigenous people before they were impacted by immigration • Causes of immigration • Why immigration continues today
Key and Related Concepts	causation, function, perspective, immigration, opportunity, cultures, change
Approaches to Learning	<p>thinking skills: acquisition of knowledge, dialectical thought communication skills: listening, speaking, research skills: collecting data, presenting research findings</p>
Attitudes	tolerance
Learner Profile	open-minded
III Knowledge	<p>Who We Are Central Idea: A country's symbols may represent the values and principles of its people and/or government. Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How symbols provide meaning • The history and significance of these symbols • How art and music reflect the heritage of a country
Key and Related Concepts	causation, form, history, impact, relationships
Approaches to Learning	<p>thinking skills: acquisition of knowledge, comprehension research skills: collecting data, presenting communication: writing, presenting research findings</p>
Attitudes	creativity, enthusiasm
Learner Profile	inquirer, communicator, knowledgeable

IV Knowledge	<p>How the World Works Central Idea: Sensory observation can assist in formulating ideas, inferences and conclusions. Lines of inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How your senses influence what you think • Similarities/differences between free exploration and systematic observation • Observations may vary from person to person • How to use observation to take another look at data in order to form a conclusion
Key and Related Concepts	perspective, function, inference, observation, conclusions
Approaches to Learning	<p>Communication skills: self-management , codes of behavior Research skills: recording, collecting, observing, interpreting</p>
Attitudes	Integrity, cooperation
Learner Profile	principled, reflective

V Knowledge	<p>Sharing the Planet Central Idea: Humans change natural environments. Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The balance of life in a healthy ecosystem • The destruction of ecosystems • The need for conservation of ecosystems
Key and Related Concepts	responsibility, change, conservation, basic needs
Approaches to Learning	<p>thinking skills: evaluation self-management skills: informed choices</p>
Attitudes	commitment, respect
Learner Profile	knowledgeable, caring

VI Knowledge	<p>How We Organize Ourselves Central Idea: Businesses contribute to the global economy by providing work and profit. Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The definitions of economic elements – goods/services, producers/consumers • The resources businesses use to operate • The fundamentals of running a business – marketing, production, and distribution
Key and Related Concepts	form, connection, function, businesses, economics
Approaches to Learning	thinking skills: analysis, synthesis, application
Attitudes	enthusiasm
Learner Profile	knowledgeable, reflective