

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: Third, Fourth and Multi-age

I Knowledge	Transdisciplinary Theme: <u>Where We Are in Place and Time</u> Central Idea: Exploration leads to discovery which can cause change. Lines of Inquiry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasons humans explore • Responsibilities of explorers • Changes caused by exploration
Key and Related Concepts	change, responsibility, exploration, discovery
Approaches to Learning	Transdisciplinary Skills: Thinking skills: acquisition of knowledge, comprehension, evaluation Research skills: formulating questions, collecting data, recording data, and presenting research findings Communication skills: speaking
Attitudes	curiosity, enthusiasm
Learner Profile	open-minded, inquirer
II Knowledge	Transdisciplinary Theme: <u>Sharing the Planet</u> Central Idea: People live in different locations because the resources meet their needs. Lines of Inquiry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ways people adapt and modify their environment to meet their needs • Ways human activity affect the physical environments • How the availability of resources influence decisions
Key and Related Concepts	form, function, resources, location
Approaches to Learning	Communication Skills: reading and listening Social Skills: group decision-making, cooperating
Attitudes	creativity, respect
Learner Profile	thinker, open-minded
III Knowledge	Transdisciplinary Theme: <u>Who We Are</u> Central Idea: Communication between cultures can increase cooperation and decrease conflict. Lines of Inquiry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How people of different cultural backgrounds live together • Cultural characteristics of native and immigrant populations • Reasons people communicate
Key and Related Concepts	connection, perspective, cooperation, conflict, culture, communication
Approaches to Learning	Communication skills: listening, non-verbal communication Social Skills: respecting others, resolving conflict, adopting a variety of group roles
Attitudes	appreciation, tolerance
Learner Profile	empathy, reflective

IV

Knowledge	<p>Transdisciplinary Theme: <u>How We Express Ourselves</u> Central Idea: Conflict can come from the expression of different beliefs and values. Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How people become informed • How people express themselves • How peoples' decisions and choices change or impact history
Key and Related Concepts	causation, perspective, beliefs, values, conflict
Approaches to Learning	<p>Research skills: collecting data, recording data, interpreting data Thinking skills: acquisition of knowledge, comprehension, evaluation</p>
Attitudes	integrity, independence, communicator
Learner Profile	caring, thinker

V

Knowledge	<p>Transdisciplinary Theme: <u>How We Organize Ourselves</u> Central Idea: People create government systems to help communities function. Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasons for governmental organization • The emergence of different laws and systems of government • The structure and function of government
Key and Related Concepts	function, responsibility, leadership, systems, citizenship
Approaches to Learning	<p>Self-management: organization Research Skills: presenting research findings Social Skills: respecting others</p>
Attitudes	cooperation, commitment
Learner Profile	risk-taker, knowledgeable

VI

Knowledge	<p>Transdisciplinary Theme: <u>How the World Works</u> Central Idea: People invent and innovate to solve problems. Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant people and their contributions to society • How inventions impact a society • Reasons people invent
Key and Related Concepts	change, reflection, innovation, inquiry
Approaches to Learning	<p>Communication skills: listening, presenting, Research Skills: planning</p>
Attitudes	cooperation, creativity, confidence
Learner Profile	inquirer, principled, balanced