| | Who we are: An inquiry into the nature of the self: beliefs and values; personal, physical, mental, social, and spiritual health; human relationships including families, friends, communities and cultures; rights and responsibilities; what it means to be human. | Where We Are in Place and Time: An inquiry into the orientation in place and time; personal histories; homes and journeys; the discoveries, explorations and migrations of humankind; the relationships between, and the interconnectedness of, individuals and civilizations from local and global perspectives. | How We Express Ourselves: An inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs, and values; the ways in which we reflect on, extend, and enjoy our creativity; our appreciation of the aesthetic. | 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. | How We Organize Ourselves: An inquiry into the interconnectedness of human- made systems and communities; the structure and function of organizations; societal decision- making; economic activities and their impact on humankind and the environment. | Sharing the Planet: An inquiry into rights and responsibilities in the struggle to share finite resources with other people and with other living things; communities and the relationships within and between them; access to equal opportunities; peace and conflict resolution. |
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| Kindergarten | Central idea: We use our senses to explore the world around us. Key Concepts: Function, Connection, Perspective Related Concepts: communication, interactions, opinions Lines of Inquiry: How we use our senses and learn through them; how we experience things differently; the connection of human experience; what makes people different; what are personal strengths and weaknesses and personal opinions. | Central idea: Shelters can meet the multiple needs of individuals. Key Concepts: Connection, Form, Function Related Concepts: Survival, habitats, structure Lines of Inquiry: Necessity of shelters for survival; various shelter forms and functions; habitats around the world. | Central idea: The world is rich with traditional tales and legends, and they can cause emotions. Key concepts: Form, Perspective, Connection Related Concepts: Imagination, creativity, expression Lines of Inquiry: What tales we know and what tales we want to learn. How we express an idea or feeling through telling stories. How different tales make us feel. | Central Idea: Living things change over time. Key Concepts: Form, Change, Connection Related Concepts: Cycles, growth, interdependence Lines of Inquiry: Needs and life cycles of living things, examining seasonal changes, how changing seasons affect living things. | Central Idea: Schools are designed to be learning communities. Key concepts: Connection, Perspective, Responsibility Related Concepts: Belonging, kindness, behavior, system Lines of Inquiry: School community routines and rules; why schools maintain routines; having a role/job in the classroom (with ideas/suggestions from students). | Central idea: We can observe and respect nature and our environment. Key Concepts: Responsibility, Connection, Function Related Concepts: Empathy, conservation, interdependance Lines of Inquiry: Recording nature observations using pictures; living vs. nonliving aspects of our environment (natural vs. manmade elements); how natural spaces are valued and why. |
| 1st | Central Idea: Our characteristics, abilities and interests help us grow and support each other as learners. Key Concepts: Connection, Responsibility, Change Related Concepts: Community, communication, growth Lines of Inquiry: Identify Learner Profile attributes that we use for different activities/task/s/situations. Explore how the attributes of the Learner Profile help us become better learners and people. Emotions can affect our actions and can connect to the learner profile attributes (i.e. how you feel when you are being an inquirer, risk-taker, caring, etc.). | Central Idea: There are many reasons for journeys, and journeys lead to changes. Key Concepts: Form, Change, Causation Related Concepts: Migration, adaptation, transportation Lines of Inquiry: Chronology of present and past events; Why people take journeys; How some journeys lead to changes | Central Idea: Playing together allows us to express ourselves and to understand our world. Key Concepts: Connection, Function, Perspective Related Concepts: Rules, sharing, inclusion Lines of Inquiry: Rules that should govern how we play together; how we communicate with each other when we play; what we learn when we play together. | Central Idea: Patterns in the sky can be observed, described, and predicted. Key Concepts: Form, Function, Causation Related Concepts: Earth, sun, moon, day, night Lines of Inquiry: The rotation of the earth and its revolution around the sun; how clocks and calendars measure time; Earth's tilt on its axis and seasonal changes. | Central Idea: Communities create transportation systems to meet their needs. Key Concepts: Connection, Function, Causation Related Concepts: Networks, transportation, technology Lines of Inquiry: How people travel between neighborhoods; features of transportation systems; how transportation systems respond to changing needs. | Central Idea: Plants sustain life on Earth and play an important role in our lives. Key Concepts: Function, Change, Causation Related Concepts: Growth, consequences, interdependence Lines of Inquiry: Caring for plants; products derived from plants; how plants contribute to life on Earth. |
| 2nd | Central Idea: Our choices and interactions impact us, our relationships, and our school community. Key Concepts: Form, Connection, Responsibility Related Concepts: Relationships, cooperation, friendship Lines of Inquiry: We make choices to develop school/classroom values; conflicts can arise but can also be solved in a school/classroom; ways we can encourage cooperation in our school community. | Central Idea: The Earth's physical geography has an impact on human settlements. Key Concepts: Causation, Change, Form Related Concepts: Geography, Environment, Community, Erosion Lines of Inquiry: Erosion and weathering change the Earth; Erosion and weathering change the Earth; Erosion and weathering change the Sessened by humankind's actions.; Changes in physical geography affect where people live and their types of homes | Central Idea: We express our values through cultural traditions. Key Concepts: Function, Connection, Perspective Related Concepts: Culture, tradition, unity Lines of Inquiry: Explore and express cultural traditions such as meals, recipes, and music; how cultural traditions express our values. | Central Idea: We can use patterns and properties of matter to build effective tools. Key Concepts: Causation, Change, Function Related Concepts: Utility, usefulness, interactions, patterns Lines of Inquiry: How matter is made up of smaller parts; How water moves through different states of matter in a cycle; Properties of materials are important to their uses; Different types of matter form objects | Central Idea: We have systems in place to exchange information that a community needs. Key Concepts: Connection, Responsibility, Function Related Concepts: Communication, information, interdependence Lines of Inquiry: How libraries work; different forms of communication in a community, such as email and regular mail; how to share information with writing. | Central Idea: The survival of all living things is interdependent. Key Concepts: Causation, Connection, Responsibility Related Concepts: survival, ecosystem, adaptation Lines of Inquiry: - What living things need to survive - What an ecosystem looks like - How one animal impacts an ecosystem |
| 3rd | Central Idea: Being members of a local community requires responsibilities and participation. Key Concepts: Connection, Function, Responsibility, consequences, citizenship Lines of Inquiry: What we know about the local Portland community and what we want to know; what we can do to contribute to improving the local community; what are some risks, consequences, and benefits of acting in the local community. | Central Idea: Cities have unique cultures that may change over time. Key Concepts: Perspective, Form, Connection Related Concepts: Citizenship, community, relationships Lines of Inquiry: Define culture; describe Portland's culture; express what it is like to live in Portland, now versus at different times. | Central Idea: Different cultures produce different types of visual art. Key Concepts: Perspective, Forn, Causation Related Concepts: Cultures, expression, communication Lines of Inquiry: The diverse ways in which cultures express themselves through visual art; the role of visual arts in different cultures; your culture's influence on your own visual art. | Central Idea: Cycles in nature impact humans and their environment. Key Concepts: Causation, Change, Responsibility Related Concepts: Prediction, Organization, Survival Lines of Inquiry: Types of natural disasters and where these occur; How natural world is changed by weather cycles and natural disasters; How humans modify surroundings for survival. | Central Idea: Economic activity relies on money and on an exchange and production of goods and services. Key Concepts: Function, Connection, Causation Related Concepts: Interdependence, fair trade Lines of Inquiry: How does money work; the exchange and production of various goods and services in an economy; the role of supply and demand. | Central Idea: Natural and manmade changes in habitats have impacts on humans and animals. Key Concepts: Causation, Change, Responsibility Related Concepts: Biodiversity, adaptations, habitats Lines of Inquiry: How to define habitats; human impact on natural habitats; how living things respond to changing environmental conditions. |
| 4th | Central Idea: Learning about different cultures helps us to understand ourselves and others. Key Concepts: Perspective, Causation, Connection Related Concepts: Identity, subjectivity, diversity, culture Lines of Inquiry: What constitutes culture; how to learn about different cultures; how cultures influence individuals; study of Francophone countries. | Central Idea: Territorial expansion impacts indigenous people. Key Concepts: Causation, Change, Form Related Concepts: Geography, impact, progress Lines of Inquiry: Characteristics of civilizations; causes of changes in civilizations; connections between past and present. | Central Idea: People can express their ideas, feelings, beliefs, and values through the performing arts. Key Concepts: Connection, Perspective, Form Related Concepts: Perception, self-expression, subjectivity Lines of Inquiry: How we interpret and respond to drama; how we express ourselves through theater; how drama can communicate emotions, beliefs, ideas, and values. | Central Idea: Inventions help to enhance daily life. Key Concepts: Form, Function, Causation Related Concepts: Discovery, creativity, technology Lines of Inquiry: Types of inventions that impact people's lives; how circumstances lead to development of inventions; brainstorming ideas for new inventions to enhance daily life. | Central Idea: Government systems influences the lives of citizens. Key Concepts: Causation, Responsibility, Function Related Concepts: Citizenship, government, law. Lines of Inquiry: How our state government organized and how does it function; how a bill becomes a law; roles and responsibilities of citizenship. | Central Idea: The choices we make about how we consume energy influence our lives and our planet. Key Concepts: Causation, Responsibility, Connection Related Concepts: Sustainability, ethics, energy Lines of Inquiry: conservation of energy; renewable vs. nonrenewable energy; management of energy. |
| 5th | Central Idea: Developing balance helps a person to achieve physical and mental health. Key Concepts: Form, Function, Change Related Concepts: Identity, health, balance Lines of Inquiry: How to define balance for physical health; how to define balance for mental; how to define balance for mental; health; compare and contrast balance and imbalance. | Central idea: We build civilizations to improve togetherness and quality of life. Key concepts: Connection, Responsibility Related concepts: Equilibrium, society, community Lines of inquiry: Define civilizations; human rights; societal laws. | Central idea: Self-expression is enhanced through writing. Key concepts: Perspective, Function, Form Related concepts: Imagination, creativity, communication Lines of inquiry: How people express uniqueness through writing; how writing supports communication; how people respond to writing, | Central idea: Human innovations may detrimentally impact the environment. Key concepts: Connection, Responsibility, Function Related concepts: Interdependence, conservation, sustainability Lines of inquiry: Our dependency on natural resources (air, soil and water); Impact of progress and technological advances; solving problem of conserving and protecting resources. | Central idea: Economic activity relies on systems of production. Key concepts: Causation, Connection, Function Related concepts: Interdependence, economy, production Lines of inquiry: Producers and consumers; supply chains; Biz Town simulation explores various systems of production. | Central idea: Conflict resolution can help people to share the planet. Key concepts: Responsibility, Connection, Perspective Related concepts: Empathy, peace, reconciliation Lines of inquiry: Causes of conflict (local and global); human rights and equality; strategies to resolve conflicts. |