



Unit of Inquiry 3 - Plants and Animals

Transdisciplinary Theme: 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.

Central Idea:

Plants and animals have characteristics that help meet their needs.

Learner Profile Traits: Inquirer and Knowledgeable

Key Concepts & Lines of Inquiry:

Form Change Function

- How plants and animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs (form)
- Comparing young plants and animals to their parents (change)
- How plants and animals engage in behaviors that help them to survive (function)

Questions driving the inquiry:

- What body parts do animals have that help them survive and grow?
- What plant parts do plants have that help them survive and grow?
- How do offspring resemble their parents?
- How do offspring learn to survive?

Approaches to Learning: (transdisciplinary skills we want the students to develop)

Social Skills:

Synthesis: combining parts to create wholes; creating, designing, developing, and innovating

Communication Skills:

Presenting: constructing visuals and multimedia for a range of purposes and audiences; communicating information and ideas through a variety of visual media; using appropriate technology for effective presentation and representation

Research Skills:

Formulating questions: identifying something one wants or needs to know and asking compelling and relevant questions which can be researched