

PYP Unit Planning



Tips for an inquiry based approach that elevates student voice, choice and ownership.



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PYP Unit Planning



1. Vary unit duration

Not all units need to be, or should be, the same length. Some units may take four weeks, whilst others may require six weeks to allow for in-depth inquiry. A celebration unit may be revisited.



2. Live it, don't laminate it!

Consider how you may need to adapt your displays and visuals to reflect the new ideas emerging in your classroom and community.



3. Review reflections

The perspective of those who were previously immersed in the inquiry may provide valuable insights for refining the unit. Learn from others!



4. Define the Central Idea

"What is the big idea that I want my students to understand in depth?". When teams have conversations about the purpose of the unit, the planning of learning engagements can become more intentional and effective.



5. Provocations are powerful

An effective provocation creates a sense of urgency and excitement for learning and inquiring. Revisit it throughout the unit.



6. Extend the learning

Action often takes place outside of the classroom. Consider how you can communicate with families and elicit examples of how students are taking their learning out into the world!



7. Give the power of choice

In both learning and assessment tasks, use a choice board for students to share their understanding.

Analyze	Understand	Apply
Create a "Top 5" list highlighting this person's life/influence.	Create a timeline identifying 8 important events.	What learner profile attributes were most helpful to this person? Give examples.
Write a "Did you know?" poem or children's book about this person.	Draw or sketch a special place in this person's life. Label.	Develop a chart to compare and contrast this person to 1-2 other well known persons (fictional or real).

This choice board provides students with opportunities to share their understanding in a variety of ways.



8. Consider various viewpoints

True inquiry considers differing opinions. Learning should address historic and current events while connecting to global and local contexts.



9. Celebrate successes

Recognise what works well and identify aspects that may benefit from a different approach.