**Cassingham Elementary Grade 5 Units of Inquiry 2014-2015**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Transdisciplinary Theme** | **Topic**  | Central Idea, Lines of Inquiry and Concepts |
| **1** | Who We AreAn inquiry into the nature of the self; beliefs and values; personal, physical, mental, social & spiritual health; human relationships including families, friends, communities and cultures; rights & responsibilities; what it means to be human | Health  |  **Central Idea:**Personal well-being requires a balance of many factors**Lines of Inquiry**:* Factors that contribute to well-being (physical: nutrition and exercise, mental, social)
* Personal issues affecting our well-being
* What it means to be unbalanced

**Key Concepts**: Causation, Change, Responsibility |
| **2** | How We Organize OurselvesAn 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. | Forms of Gov’t | **Central Idea**:Governmental systems and decisions can promote or deny equal opportunities and social justice**Lines of Inquiry**:* Types of government (dictatorship, democracy, monarchy)
* Economic interdependence
* The meaning of equality (as it pertains to gov’t)

**Key Concepts**: Connection, Perspective, Form |
| **3** | Sharing the PlanetAn 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. | Biodiversity   | **Central Idea**:Biodiversity relies on maintaining the interdependence of organisms within systems**Lines of Inquiry**:* Interdependence **(**within ecosystems, biomes and environments)
* Changes within biomes/ecosystems
* Human effects on environmental systems

**Key Concepts**: Causation, Connection, Responsibility |
| **4** | How the World WorksAn 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.  | Properties of Energy | **Central Idea**:The relationship between energy and force can behave in predictable ways**.****Lines of Inquiry:*** Different forms of energy (light, sound, heat)
* Forces of motion
* How energy works

**Key Concepts:** Causation, Form, Function |
| **5** | Where We Are in Place & TimeAn inquiry into orientation in place & time; personal histories; homes & journeys; the discoveries, explorations and migrations of humankind; the relationships between and the interconnectedness of individuals and civilizations, from local and global perspectives. | Native People | **Central Idea**:Modern societies may reflect the culture of native people(s).**Lines of Inquiry**:* The development of native cultures
* Explanation of the natural world
* The influence of native people

**Key Concepts**: Causation, Form, Perspective |
| **6** | How We Express OurselvesAn inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express our ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values; the ways in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy our creativity; our appreciation of the aesthetic. | Western Civilization | **Central Idea**:Traditions and artifacts provide a window into the expression of beliefs and values of cultures.Lines of Inquiry:* The expression of culture
* How artifacts/traditions symbolizes beliefs and values
* Perceptions of cultures

**Key Concepts**: Function, Perspective, Reflection |