







Kumamoto International School
Primary Years Program (PYP) 2020 Program of Inquiry

Unit of Inquiry	<p>Who We Are</p> <p>私たちは誰なのか</p> 	<p>Where We Are in Time and Place</p> <p>私たちはどのような場所と時代にいるのか</p> 	<p>How We Express Ourselves</p> <p>私たちはどのように自分を表現するのか</p> 	<p>How We Organize Ourselves</p> <p>私たちは自分たちをどう組織しているのか</p> 	<p>How the World Works</p> <p>世界はどのような仕組みになっているのか</p> 	<p>Sharing the Planet</p> <p>この地球を共有すること</p> 
Grade 1	<p>Inquiry Theme</p> <p>Human beings are at the same time individuals and members of different groups.</p>	<p>Inquiry Theme</p> <p>Many influences contribute to who people become</p>	<p>Inquiry Theme</p> <p>Human beings express themselves in a variety of ways</p>	<p>Inquiry Theme</p> <p>People now and in the past have all had to solve the same challenges about meeting their basic needs.</p>	<p>Inquiry Theme</p> <p>All ecosystems are made up of the same basic elements</p>	<p>Inquiry Theme</p> <p>Caring for the environment is critical for the survival of all living things.</p>
	<p>Conceptual understandings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People can be part of many groups at the same time. • People identify as part of their group. • Most people choose to be part of a group for social or protective reasons, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone comes from somewhere, and has family. • Environment is a big factor in how people grow. • Children look like their parents, and learn habits from them as well as other role models. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animation exaggerated facial expression and body language. • Our body language tells others about us. • Different cultures express things in different ways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All living things share the same basic needs. • Technology has made meeting certain needs even easier. • There is a difference between needs and wants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plants are the basis of all food chains on earth. • Animals and plants require certain things to survive. • Animals and plants rely on each other in their environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some things are renewable, and other are not. • Renewable sources of energy help reduce damage to the environment. • Modern lifestyles produce a lot of trash and pollution that hurt the planet.
Grade 2	<p>Inquiry Theme</p> <p>The physical world and its geography influences human settlement</p>	<p>Inquiry Theme</p> <p>The world today is a consequence of what happened in the past.</p>	<p>Inquiry Theme</p> <p>Human beings communicate through a variety of verbal and non-verbal means</p>	<p>Inquiry Theme</p> <p>We use machines to make our life easier</p>	<p>Inquiry Theme</p> <p>Matter interacts in a variety of ways</p>	<p>Inquiry Theme</p> <p>When interacting with natural habitats, humans make choices that have an impact on other living things.</p>
	<p>Conceptual understandings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are specific reasons why humans settle in an area. • Different locations have advantages and disadvantages. • Different groups choose the same types of areas to meet their basic needs as a society. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The past can be recorded and can be rediscovered. • The world changes over time, and in multiple ways (physically, economically, socially). • Humans can learn from their mistakes for a better future. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art takes on many forms. • Art represents the artist that created it. • Art is delivered through various mediums. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All machines operate on the same basic physical principles. • People build machines to help them do things. • Machines require some form of energy to work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matter is the building blocks of everything in the universe. • Heat can change the state of matter. • Matter has properties that differentiates it, and that people can use that to their benefit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People affect the earth in many ways • UN Sustainable Development Goals • Renewable sources of energy help reduce damage to the environment.
Grade 3	<p>Inquiry Theme</p> <p>Cultures around the world tell the same basic stories in different ways.</p>	<p>Inquiry Theme</p> <p>Geography and climate influence human migration and conflict</p>	<p>Inquiry Theme</p> <p>Mass media influences us in a variety of ways</p>	<p>Inquiry Theme</p> <p>Human beings form institutions to provide a variety of necessary services</p>	<p>Inquiry Theme</p> <p>Using a variety of means, we can learn about how the earth was in the past</p>	<p>Inquiry Theme</p> <p>Human activity affects the earth in a variety of ways</p>
	<p>Conceptual understandings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The basic elements of a story are the same everywhere, such as in the Hero's Journey and creation myths. • Ghost stories, fables and legends appear in every culture. (Voodoo, Witches, Yuurei, Monsters) • Stories are used to entertain, but also to teach morals and values. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People choose certain areas to live because of access to resources • Different cultures may fight over access to resources. • Humans migrate to escape danger, or when resources are exhausted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media broadcasts and advertisements shape our thinking. • Different media appeal to different demographics. • It is important to be careful about where we get our news from. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The same common institutions exist everywhere. • People need institutions for society to run smoothly. • Taxes are important to pay for institutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We can learn about the past by studying archaeology, anthropology, and paleontology. • By studying ancient peoples, we can learn about how the world has changed. • Fossils are a picture into the past. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People are hugely changing the planet - climate change, pollution. • We can do things to help the earth • UN SDGs are a way to try to help the planet for the benefit of all

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私たちは誰なのか	私たちはどのような場所と時代にいますのか	私たちはどのように自分を表現するのか	私たちは自分たちをどう組織しているのか	世界はどのような仕組みになっているのか	この地球を共有すること						
Grade 4	Inquiry Theme	Human beings are motivated by many things to change themselves and their environment	The choices we make today will shape the world we live in tomorrow	Digital Technology can be used to create useful things	Scientific and technological developments impact society in many ways	Energy and waves are all around us	Earth is the perfect environment to support life				
Conceptual understandings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having goals is important to being happy and allowing us to work hard • Over time, our daily habits become who we are - in good ways and bad • Change requires forming new habits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The actions of people in the past influence us today • Our actions now will influence future generations • We can make intelligent choices about how we should act based on studying history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programming allows us to create things. • We can express our uniqueness as individuals by programming. • We can create art using computers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technological developments have greatly increased our quality of life • Technological advancements allow us to meet our basic needs more easily and cheaply • Technological changes are often good, but can also be bad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We use various forms of energy to communicate in a variety of ways • Some forms of useful energy are dangerous and must be harnessed carefully • "The Electromagnetic Spectrum" - colors, radio waves and microwaves are all related 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The earth is goldilocks planet, and this allowed life to develop • United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) • What global warming is, how it happened, and its effects 					
Grade 5	Inquiry Theme	Human beings organize themselves for the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services	Globalization has changed the world in many ways	Companies use a variety of means to try to persuade people to do things	Because the world is connected, what happens in one place affects what happens elsewhere	Matter and its interactions are all around us	Ecosystems are the basis of all life on earth				
Conceptual understandings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human beings form units to accomplish goals • Everyone benefits when different groups specialize in things they are good at • Cash and credit and how they allow us to buy things we need and want 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Globalization, what is it? • In a globalized world, some groups benefit and some don't • In many ways, the world has gotten smaller because of digitalization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ads try to persuade us to believe things or do things • Fake news and deceptive practices have become very common • Education and research are the best ways to know what to believe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital means of communication have changed how people communicate • Social networking sites make it easy for messages, good and bad, to travel widely • We have to be careful about what we believe online 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How matter moves among plants, animals, decomposers, and the environment • The carbon cycle and how it relates to global warming • The water cycle and how it interacts with and influences human life and decision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactions within systems involve the transfer of energy • Energy - how it gets transferred in systems • Design flow charts of the energy transfer that occurs from Sun to apex predators 					
Grade 6	Inquiry Theme	Governments are made by the people and derive their power from them	Power and social hierarchies exist all over the world	Human beings can make choices to help us be happier	Human beings engage in conflict for many reasons	From Molecules to Organisms, all life and structure on earth is made of the same building blocks	The microscopic world affects us in big ways.				
Conceptual understandings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democratic government is formed by people • There are many forms of government with varying degrees of freedom for citizens • Can we say which form of government is best? If so, why? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is power and how can we get it? • Citizens can organize to change the power hierarchies in society • Human history is a series of changes in power between countries and within societies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does research tell us about what makes people happy? • Human beings can make choices that affect their happiness • Social networking sites have been shown to negatively impact mental health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War occurs for a variety of reasons • Is it really possible to win a war? • In the age of global warming, all societies and people must work together for the common good 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are cells how do they work? • Atoms as a basis of all matter and life on earth • Carbon forms the basis of life on earth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The world we see is formed by atoms • Everything we observe in the world is made up of the atoms in the periodic table • Microscopic pathogens affect us daily in many ways 					