

Primary Years Program of Inquiry

2025-2026

	Who We Are	Where We Are	How We Express	How the World Works	How We Organize	Sharing the Planet
GRADE	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	An inquiry into orientation in place and time; personal histories; homes and journeys; the discoveries, explorations and migrations of humankind; relationships between and interconnectedness of individuals and civilization, from local to global perspectives	An 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	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	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	An inquiry into the 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
UTK age 4-5	Title I Can Do It Central Idea Exploration helps us learn. Key Concepts Form, Connection, Causation Related Concepts Behavior, Kindness, Empathy, Emotion Lines of Inquiry - Exploring and using the five senses to learn about the world - Common feelings and emotions that all humans share - Exploring strategies to manage emotions Approaches to Learning Communication Skills, Social Skills, Self-management Skills Learner Profile Communicator, Principled	Title I Can Go Central Idea People move from place to place in different ways. Key Concepts Form, Change, Perspective Related concepts Transit, Journeys, Travel Lines of Inquiry - Different forms of transportation - The change of transportation over time - How and why people travel to and from their homes, communities and beyond Approaches to Learning Thinking Skills, Research Skills, Social Skills, Communication Skills Learner Profile Inquirer, Thinker	Title I Can Show It Central Idea The natural world can be expressed through the arts. Key Concepts Function, Perspective Related Concepts Garden, Observe, Senses Lines of Inquiry - How the five sense work - Exploring and appreciating nature - How nature inspires artistic creation Approaches to Learning Self-management Skills, Communication Skills, Research Skills Learner Profile Open-Minded, Balanced	Title I Can Build It Central Idea People build things to meet a need. Key Concepts Form, Function, Connection Related Concepts Structure, Impact, Resources Lines of Inquiry - Geometry and measurement when building or creating - Connection of building and technology - Finding and using resources to build Approaches to Learning Social Skills, Self-management Skills, Thinking Skills, Communication Skills Learner Profile Knowledgeable, Risk-Taker	Title I can track the weather Central Idea Weather impacts our daily lives. Key Concepts Form, Function, Causation Related Concepts Seasons, Forecasting, Scientists Lines of Inquiry - The purpose of weather tracking - Weather influences our decisions - Preparing for mild and extreme weather Approaches to Learning Communication Skills, Thinking Skills, Research Skills Social Skills Learner Profile Inquirer, Knowledgeable	Title I Can Help Central Idea People take responsibility and care for animals. Key Concepts Form, Reflection, Responsibility Related Concepts Classification, Mammals, Patterns Lines of Inquiry - Characteristics and needs of animals - How people care for animals - Our responsibility for the wellbeing of animals Approaches to Learning Social Skills, Thinking Skills, Research Skills Learner Profile Caring, Reflective
K age 5-6	Title Marvelous Me Central Idea Who I am and what I do makes me unique. Key Concepts Causation, Connection, Perspective Related Concepts Relationships, feelings, similarities and differences Lines of Inquiry - People express feelings in a variety of ways - People have diverse likes and dislikes - People are unique Approaches to Learning Social Skills, Communication Skills, Self-management Skills Learner Profile Risk Taker, Principled (Confidence, Cooperation, Empathy)	Title Where Am I? Central Idea We can learn about our neighborhood and where it is in the world. Key Concepts Causation, Connection, Perspective Related Concepts Location, Community, Interdependence Lines of Inquiry - People use maps and globes to learn about the world - Parts within a neighborhood are connected - There are similarities and differences in neighborhoods around the world Approaches to Learning Thinking Skills, Research Skills Learner Profile Balanced, Knowledgeable (Appreciation, Interdependence)	Title Celebrate Central Idea People celebrate for different reasons. Key Concepts Form, Change, Perspective Related Concepts Pattern, Beliefs and Customs, Seasons Lines of Inquiry - Beliefs and customs influence celebrations around the world - People celebrate for different reasons and in different ways - There are commonalities between celebrations Approaches to Learning Communication Skills, Research Skills Learner Profile Open Minded, Knowledgeable (Creativity, Tolerance)	Title May the Force Be With You Central Idea People investigate how force may influence the motion of objects. Key Concepts Form, Function, Responsibility Related Concepts Properties Lines of Inquiry - Properties of pushes and pulls - Forces move objects - Speed and direction of objects can be changed - Motion can be changed when objects interact Approaches to Learning Thinking Skills, Communication Skills Learner Profile Inquirer, Thinker (Enthusiasm, Respect)	Title When I Grow Up Central Idea All jobs have a role in a community. Key Concepts Function, Form, Connection Related Concepts Community, Structure, Role Lines of Inquiry - People have different jobs in a community - Goods and services are provided by community workers - Jobs within a community are related Approaches to Learning Communication Skills Learner Profile Communicator, Thinker, Reflective (Cooperation, Curiosity, Respect)	Title All Systems Go Central Idea Plants, animals and their surroundings make up a system where their needs can be met. Key Concepts Connection, Responsibility, Function Related Concepts Habitats, Interdependence, Classification Lines of inquiry - Living things have specific needs - Living things (and non-living things) interact and affect each other - Humans have a responsibility to other living things Approaches to Learning Communication Skills, Research Skills Learner Profile Caring, Inquirer, Reflective, Balanced (Cooperation, Curiosity)

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1ST age 6-7	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 Central Idea Symbols bring a community together. Key Concepts: Form, Perspective, Connection Related Concepts: Beliefs, Culture, Community, Symbols Lines of Inquiry - Individuals make contributions to communities - Locate where we live on maps - Identify structures and symbols - Understand tradition and culture around the world Approaches to Learning Communication Skills, Research Skills, Social Skills Learner Profile Open-minded, Principled	An inquiry into orientation in place and time; personal histories; homes and journeys; the discoveries, explorations and migrations of humankind; relationships between and interconnectedness of individuals and civilization, from local to global perspectives Central Idea The way people live changes over time. Key Concepts: Form, Change, Causation, Connection Related Concepts: Marketplace, Technology, Transportation, Time Lines of Inquiry - Compare and contrast daily life according to life today and in the past - Examine structures of schools and the marketplace - Identify changes in transportation Approaches to Learning Thinking Skills, Communication Skills Learner Profile Communicator, Thinker	An 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 Central Idea People express themselves in different ways. Key Concepts: Connection, Perspective Related Concepts: Self-expression, Beliefs Lines of Inquiry - Writing is a form of expression - People express themselves through the arts Approaches to Learning Thinking Skills, Social Skills Learner Profile Balanced, Risk Taker	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 Central Idea We use patterns to make predictions. Key Concepts: Form, Causation, Function Related Concepts: Patterns Lines of Inquiry - The patterns of the sun affect living things - Writing, reading and math have patterns - The sun, moon, stars, and seasons are observable patterns. Approaches to Learning Communication Skills, Thinking Skills Learner Profile Knowledgeable, Inquirer	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 Central Idea Citizens build their community through their choices. Key Concepts: Form, Causation, Responsibility Related Concepts: Rules, Procedures, Citizenship Lines of Inquiry - Choices we make have a cause and effect - All members have something to contribute to the community - Citizens of a community have responsibility to learn and be safe Approaches to Learning Self-management Skills, Social Skills, Communication Skills Learner Profile Caring, Principled	An inquiry into the 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 Living things have special structures and behaviors that help them survive. Key Concepts: Form, Function, Responsibility, Connection Related Concepts: Adaptations, Conservation, Survival Lines of Inquiry - Nature can teach us. - Animals and plants survive by using their structures and behaviors - We have a responsibility towards animals and plants Approaches to Learning Thinking Skills, Communication Skills Learner Profile Inquirer, Knowledgeable, Reflective
2ND age 7-8	Making sensible choices about how we care for our bodies and minds helps us thrive. Key Concepts Responsibility, Connection Related Concepts Relationships, Choices, Goal setting Lines of inquiry - The food you eat gives your body energy - Exercise helps your body have more energy - Making healthy choices affects your attitude Approaches to Learning Self-management Skills, Social Skills Learner Profile Balanced, Risk-taker	Family history influences who you are today. Key Concepts Change Connection, Causation Related Concepts Community, Population, Time Lines of inquiry - Families remember their past in a variety of ways - Various factors cause communities to grow and decline - Culture shapes identity Approaches to Learning Research Skills, Communication Skills, Thinking Skills Learner Profile Communicator, Open-minded	Authors use common themes to express feelings and cultural beliefs. Key Concepts Form, Connection, Perspective Related Concepts Culture, Story Lines of inquiry - The common elements of folktales and fairy tales (form) - Author’s purpose (perspective) - The impact of folktales and fairy tales on our daily life (connection) Approaches to Learning Research Skills, Communication Skills, Self-management Skills, Thinking Skills Learner Profile, Thinker, Reflective	Earth’s processes change the shape of the land. Key Concepts Change, Connection Related Concepts Resource, Process, Erosion, Geology Lines o Inquiry - Earthquakes and volcanoes change the shape of the land - Earth’s surfaces are land and water - Wind and water change the shape of the land Approaches to Learning Communication Skills, Thinking Skills Learner Profile Communicator, Thinker	Humans establish laws and develop systems to enforce and maintain social order. Key Concepts Responsibility, Function, Causation Related Concepts Consequences, Rights, Systems Lines of Inquiry - People make laws and rules to keep us safe - There are consequences when laws or rules are broken - People monitor if laws are being followed Approaches to Learning Communication Skills, Thinking Skills, Social Skills Learner Profile Caring, Principled	Living things within an ecosystem depend on each other. Key Concepts Form, Function, Causation Related Concepts Agriculture, Interdependence, Balance Lines of Inquiry - Habitats and how animals depend on each other for survival. - Role in the ecosystem - Habitat and dependency Approaches to Learning Research Skills, Self-management Skills Learner Profile Knowledgeable, Inquirer

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3RD age 8-9	Central Idea Beliefs and values influence our actions. Key Concepts: Responsibility, Perspective, Reflection Related Concepts Community, Relationships Lines of inquiry ● Citizens’ rights and responsibilities ● Ways to express beliefs ● Actions to take to make change ● Governments’ role in addressing beliefs and values Approaches to Learning Self-management Skills, Thinking Skills, Social Skills Learner Profile Open-minded, Risk-taker, Caring	Central Idea Organisms adapt to survive. Key Concepts Change, Causation, Connection Related Concepts Survival, Argument, Adaptations Lines of inquiry ● How geography affects traits ● How animals and the environment change over time ● Geography affects pollination and reproduction ● Organisms adapt in order to survive Approaches to Learning Social Skills, Thinking Skills, Communication Skills Learner Profile Balance, Open-minded, Reflective	Central Idea People express themselves through the arts. Key Concepts Connection, Perspective, Form Related Concepts Communication, Creativity, Appreciation Lines of inquiry ● We can express ourselves through art ● Different artistic techniques (form) ● Different pieces of art make us feel different emotions. Approaches to Learning Communication Skills, Thinking Skills, Self-management Skills Learner Profile Open-minded, Communicator, Reflective	Central Idea Science affects everyday life. Key Concepts Causation, Connection Related Concepts Forces and Interactions, Weather and Climate, Data Lines of inquiry ● Scientists record weather patterns across different times and areas so they can make predictions ● Patterns of an object’s motion can be observed and measured ● When motion exhibits a pattern future motion can be predicted Approaches to Learning Research Skills, Communication Skills Learner Profile Thinker, Inquirer, Knowledgeable	Central Idea Economic systems connect communities. Key Concepts Causation, Form, Function Related Concepts Systems, Economy, Trade Lines of inquiry ● Types of systems ● Connections between local and global trade ● Economies are determined by wants and needs ● Supply and demand affect trade Approaches to Learning Research Skills, Thinking Skills, Self Management Skills Learner Profile Knowledgeable, Thinker	Central Idea The choices we make have an impact on the world. Key Concepts Causation, Responsibility, Reflection Related Concepts Consequences, Pollution, Prevention Lines of inquiry ● The causes of pollution ● Our responsibility in causing or preventing pollution ● How we affect environmental change Approaches to Learning Thinking Skills, Communication Skills Learner Profile Reflective, Caring, Principled
4th age 9-10	Central Idea The choices people make affect their relationships. Key Concepts Function, Connections Related Concepts Responsibility Lines of inquiry ● Choices and their consequences ● Healthy Relationships ● Self-Management and its impact on our lives Approaches to Learning Social Skills, Self-management Skills Learner Profile Principled, Balanced, Reflective	Central Idea Migration can cause change and/or conflict. Key Concepts Function, Causation, Change Related Concepts Government, Economy, Culture Lines of inquiry ● Conflict as a result of migration ● The impact of migration on a region’s economy and culture ● Migration and the effect on a region’s political and social systems Approaches to Learning Research Skills, Communication Skills, Thinking Skills Learner Profile Knowledgeable, Thinker, Open-Minded	Central Idea Evidence can be used to explain one’s ideas. Key Concepts Form, Reflection, Perspective Related Concepts Scientific Method , Interpretation, Evidence, Patterns Lines of inquiry ● Different forms of evidence ● Using evidence to support ideas ● Collecting and interpreting evidence ● Select, organize, and share Approaches to Learning Social Skills, Communication Skills, Research Skills Learner Profile Inquirer, Risk-taker, Communicator	Central Idea Patterns explain how the Earth changes. Key Concepts Causation, Change, Responsibility Related Concepts Systems, Erosion and Weathering, Natural Disasters, Impact (Disaster Preparedness, Fossils) Lines of inquiry ● Patterns of Earth’s forces. ● The impact natural processes have on Earth ● Effects of living things on our earth Approaches to Learning Research Skills, Communication Skills, Self-management Skills Learner Profile Communicator, Thinker, Inquirer	Central Idea Structures and systems in our world have parts that work together to carry out a function. Key Concepts Form (Structure), Function, Perspective, Responsibility Related Concepts Civics, Issues Persuasion, Systems Lines of inquiry ● Humans design and use systems and structures (governments, math, writing) ● Related parts (form/structures) carry out a function ● Parts of a system work together Approaches to Learning Research Skills, Thinking Skills, Self-management Skills Learner Profile Caring, Risk-taker, Principled	Central Idea Organisms depend on their physical environment in order to meet their needs. Key Concepts Causation, Connection, Change Related Concepts Environment, Adaptation, Interdependence, Natural Resources Lines of inquiry ● Physical environments and the resources they provide ● Ways organisms adapt using their internal and external structures ● The interactions between living and nonliving components in an ecosystem Approaches to Learning Thinking Skills, Communication Skills Learner Profile Inquirer, Knowledgeable, Open-minded

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5TH age 10 - 11	EXHIBITION Central Idea Living things are constantly changing. Key Concepts Causation, Connection, Responsibility Related Concepts Systems, Health, Balance Lines of inquiry - Function of specialized structures - Inter-relatedness of living systems - Impact of choices Approaches to Learning Thinking Skills, Self-management Skills Learner Profile Reflective, Balanced	Central Idea The geography and climate of a region impact the lifeways of its people. Key Concepts Function, Causation, Connection Related Concepts Responsibility, reflection, structure Lines of inquiry - Impact of climate and weather on communities past & present - North American native cultures and communities - Global cultures and communities Approaches to Learning Thinking Skills, Self-management Skills, Research Skills Learner Profile Reflective, Inquirer	Central Idea People express their ideas and use persuasion to influence others. Key Concepts Form, Perspective, Connection Related Concepts Opinion, Influence, Evidence Lines of inquiry - Persuasive techniques used in writing - Media’s use of persuasive techniques - Arts used as social commentary Approaches to Learning Social Skills, Thinking Skills Learner Profile Risk Taker, Communicator	Central Idea All systems in our natural world are built from smaller components. Key concepts Change, Form (structure), Systems Related Concepts Reaction, Properties, Balance Lines of inquiry - Components of systems - Effects of Change - Human impact on environment Approaches to Learning Thinking Skills, Self-management Skills Learner Profile Thinkers, Knowledgeable	Central Idea Political, religious, social, and/or economic struggles influence patterns of immigration. Key concepts Change, Perspective, Connection (causation?) Related concepts Immigration, Patterns Lines of inquiry - Patterns of immigration through time - Perspectives of immigration - Impact of immigrants on history Approaches to Learning Social Skills, Research Skills Learner Profile Open-minded, Caring	Central Idea Human activities impact earth’s resources and environment. Key concepts Form, Responsibility, System Related concepts Initiative, Alternatives, Citizenship Lines of inquiry - Earth’s water is a closed system - Sources of local water - Water conservation and own responsibility and relationship with water - Access to water throughout the world Approaches to Learning Thinking Skills, Self-management Skills Learner Profile Reflective, Inquirer