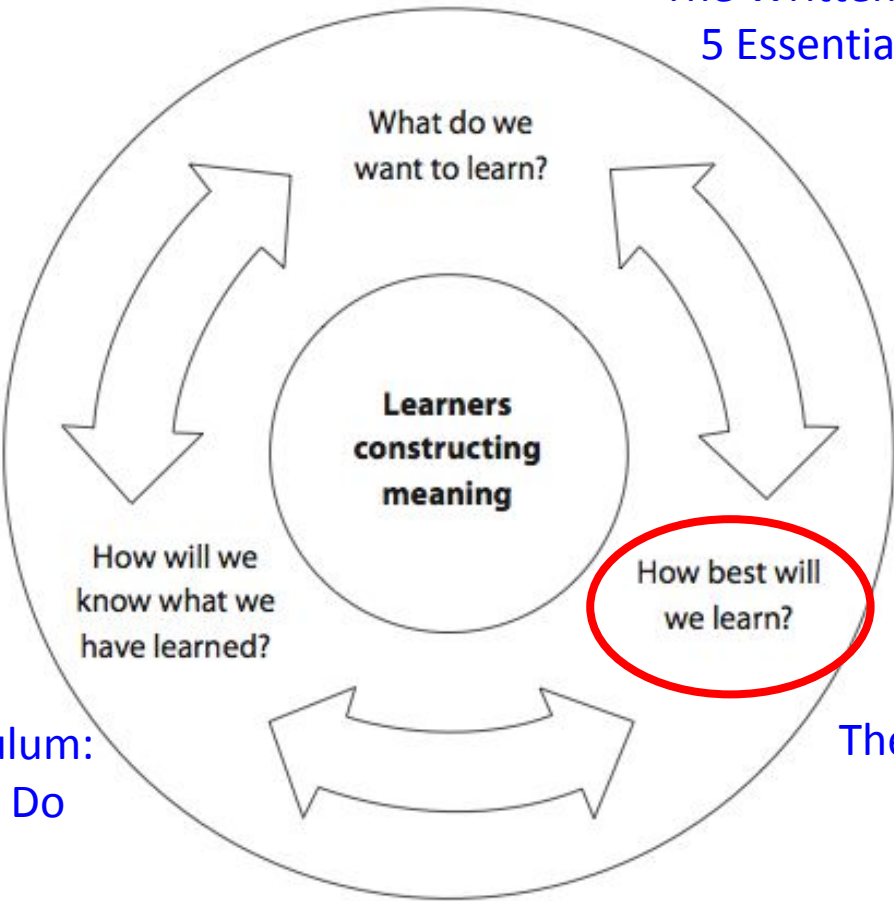


Inquiry Based Learning in the PYP

Anna-Marie McAleer



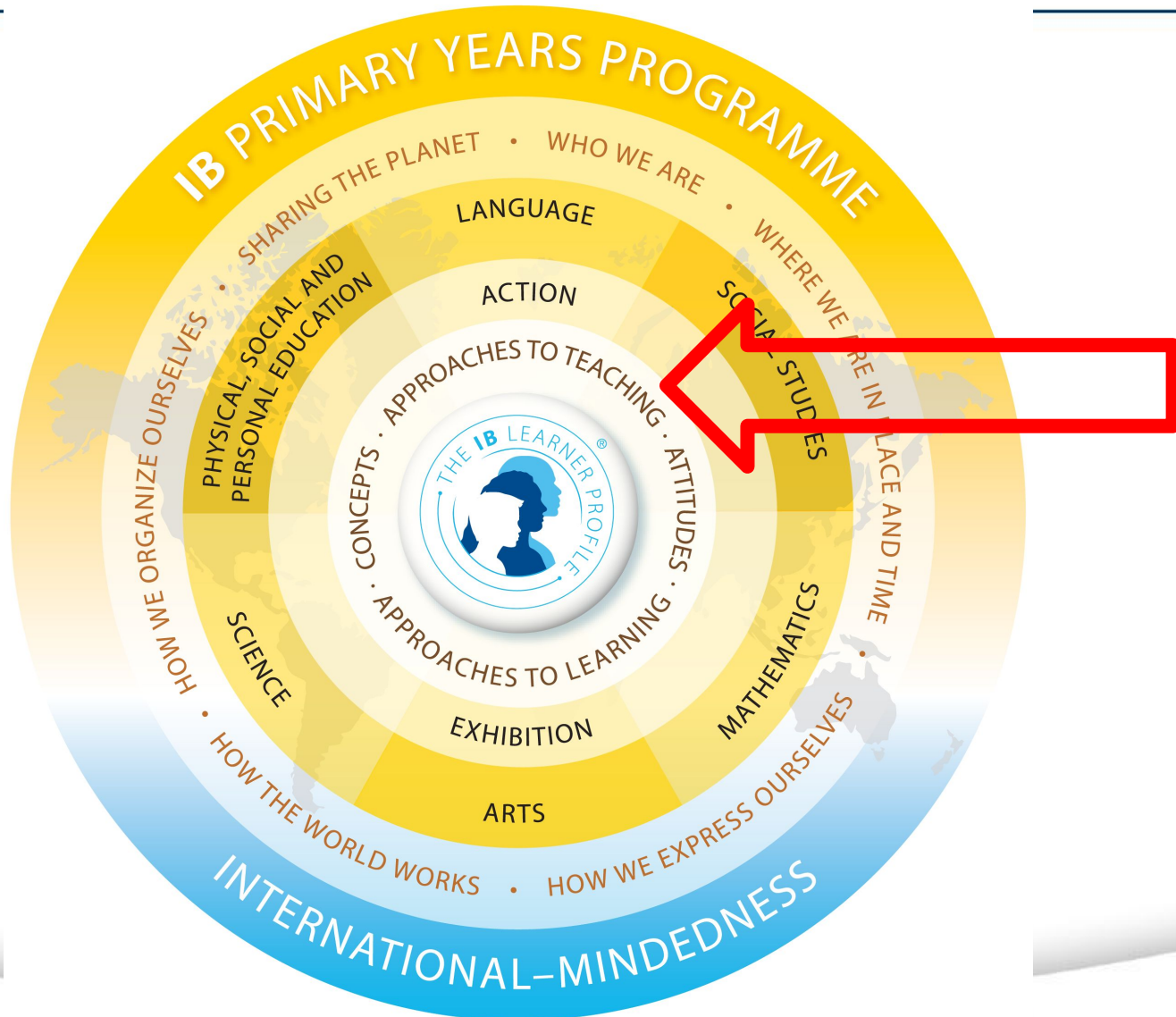
The Written Curriculum:
5 Essential Elements



The Assessed Curriculum:
Know, Understand, Do

The Taught Curriculum:
Inquiry Based





Spirit of Inquiry

“The PYP represents an approach to teaching that is broad and inclusive in that it provides a context within which a wide variety of teaching strategies and styles can be accommodated, provided that they are driven by a spirit of inquiry and a clear sense of purpose.”

MTPYP, pg. 70

Play - Acts of Inquiry

We believe play-based learning is an act of inquiry that connotes critical and reflective thought and promotes the attainment of the intellectual capacity of every learner.



Play - Acts of Inquiry

“While playing, children are active learners making creative decisions and solving problems. Play provides opportunities for children to practice these skills which may build their confidence to face and deal with new situations and problems.”

- Leanne Hunter & Lisa J. Sonter (2012)

What is Inquiry?

- Curiosity!
- Students actively involved in their own learning
- Beginning with students' current understanding
- Active construction of meaning by building connections between current understanding and new information and experiences.



What is Inquiry?

- Inquiry helps to understand the “why” behind information
- Inquiry is conceptually-based rather than topical
- Conceptually-based curriculum puts the major emphasis on the big ideas that lie behind the topics, leading to deep essential understandings that transfer across contexts

Inquiry - Conceptually driven

Grade 1 Central Idea:

Changes in technology affects
people's lives.

Inquiry - Conceptually driven

Grade 2 Central Idea:

The Earth's physical geography affects how people adapt and live.

Inquiry - Conceptually driven

Grade 3 Central Idea:

Migration is a response to challenges and opportunities, impacting people and places.

Why Inquiry?

- 21st century education: move from the Information Age to a Conceptual Age
- Children & adults need to think conceptually
- To apply their understanding and knowledge in future contexts



Types of Inquiry

Personal Inquiry
Collaborative Inquiry
Guided Inquiry



Types of Inquiry

Personal Inquiry:

- learner as both the problem-poser and problem-solver

Example: Independent reading, literature circles, writing workshops and expert projects (exhibition, summative tasks)

Types of Inquiry

Collaborative Inquiry:

- teachers and students collaborate on problem-solving
- Teachers influence the problems that are posed
- Teachers negotiate the curriculum with students



Types of Inquiry

Guided Inquiry:

- the teacher is the problem-poser and students are problem-solvers
- often found in skill instruction

Example may be a guided-reading group working with a specific reading strategy.

Inquiry Cycle

Tuning In	Defining the key issues or problem; identifying prior knowledge and questions; identifying information needs; hypothesising and predicting; setting goals and time lines
Finding Out	Identifying resources needed; locating and using a range of resources; searching for and locating key ideas; detecting bias, points of view, prejudices.
Sorting Out	Ordering, classifying, analysing, synthesising, reasoning, considering alternatives, considering different perspectives, evaluating information and ideas; suggesting consequences.
Going Further	Comparing and contrasting; questioning; justifying statements; interpreting information.
Reflection	Communicating - representing information in a variety of ways; reporting on the information gained through the inquiry process; summarising; Reflecting - thinking about and self-assessing their learning and the process of learning; modifying
Action	Setting goals; making decisions



What does inquiry look like?

- Exploring, wondering and questioning
- Experimenting and playing with possibilities
- Making connections between previous learning and current learning
- Making predictions and acting purposely to see what happens
- Collecting data and reporting findings
- Clarifying existing ideas and reappraising perceptions of events
- Deepening understanding through the application of a concept
- Making and testing theories
- Researching and seeking information
- Taking and defending a position
- Solving problems in a variety of ways



Inquiry is Natural

We can learn a lot by how children naturally inquire



What Inquiry Looks Like

“Inquiry learning involves students forming their own questions about a topic and having time to explore the answers. Students are both problem posers and problem solvers within inquiry learning. It is a collaborative process in which both students and teachers work together negotiating aspects of the curriculum. Inquiry learning encourages learners to examine the complexities of their world and form concepts and generalizations instead of simply being told simple answers to more complex problems.”

- Jeni Wilson & Lesley Wing Jan (2003)

Inquiry

“A person who poses the problem is the one who remains in control of the learning” - Freire

We do not want students to become problem-solvers who only pursue the questions that others pose for them and do not question the questions.





CANADIAN
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



our Vision

The Canadian International School in Singapore is a dynamic, caring and safe learning environment. Our school community celebrates its internationalism. With our challenging, well-rounded curriculum and our dedicated teachers and staff, we strive to develop the whole child. Students enjoy learning by making meaningful connections between the classroom and the world at large. CIS prepares students to be successful, well-balanced and responsible global citizens.



CANADIAN
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



our **Mission**

Engage. Enlighten. Empower.



CANADIAN
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



our Core Values

- Respect:** We respect ourselves and respect others for their special talents, skills and contributions.
- Commitment:** We keep our promises and will fulfil all our commitments.
- Integrity:** We believe that integrity is the heart of all lasting relationships and endeavours, and will work with each other in good faith.
- Collaboration:** We will cooperate with each other, learn and have fun together to achieve things which are of significance.
- Responsibility:** We take pride in all that we do and are accountable for our actions.