

Concepts: what do we want students to understand?

Form

Key question

What is it like?

Definition

The understanding that everything has a form with recognizable features that can be observed, identified, described and categorized.

Examples of related concepts

Properties, structure, similarities, differences, pattern

Function

Key question

How does it function?

Definition

The understanding that everything has a purpose, a role or a way of behaving that can be investigated.

Examples of related concepts

Behavior, communication, pattern, role, systems

Causation

Key question

Why is it like it is?

Definition

The understanding that things do not just happen, that there are causal relationships at work and that actions have consequences.

Examples of related concepts

Consequences, sequences, pattern, impact

Change

Key question

How is it changing?

Definition

The understanding that change is the process of movement from one state to another, it is universal and inevitable.

Examples of related concepts

Adaptation, growth, cycles, sequences, transformation

Connection

- Key question** How is it connected to other things?
- Definition** The understanding that we live in a world of interacting systems in which the action of any individual element affect others.
- Examples of related concepts** Systems, relationships, networks, homeostasis, interdependence

Perspective

- Key question** What are the points of view?
- Definition** The understanding that knowledge is moderated by perspectives; different perspectives lead to different interpretations, understandings and findings; perspectives may be individual, group, cultural or disciplinary.
- Examples of related concepts** Subjectivity, truth, beliefs, opinion, prejudice

Responsibility

- Key question** What is our responsibility?
- Definition** The understanding that people make choices based on their understandings and the actions they take as a result do make a difference.
- Examples of related concepts** Rights, citizenship, values, justice, initiative

Reflection

- Key question** How do we know?
- Definition** The understanding that there are different ways of knowing and that it is important to reflect on our conclusions, to consider our methods of reasoning and the quality and the reliability of the evidence we have considered.
- Examples of related concepts** Review, interpretation, evidence, responsibility, behavior