



# A Visual Guide to the PYP

From Principles to Practices Playbook

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## Understanding the PYP: A Transdisciplinary Programme

"What skills and understandings might I need to solve real world problems?"



Transdisciplinary learning is represented as a cake where the ingredients are no longer distinguishable and the result is something completely different ( Choi and Pak 2006)

### Transdisciplinary Themes

Through the essential elements, students go beyond siloed subjects to solve real world problems identified in the Transdisciplinary Themes.



Knowledge



Concepts



Action



Approaches  
to Learning



Learner Profile  
Attributes

## Why the Transdisciplinary Themes?



The themes address real world problems that help students better understand our shared humanity without regard for subject boundaries.



Subjects become one of the instruments/tools/resources to explore the themes, real world problems and concepts in depth.



Students move away from finding the "correct" answer and towards making sense of a changing world through collaboration and connection making.



**Knowledge**



**Concepts**



**Learner Profile Attributes**



**Action**



**Approaches to Learning**

### How we organize ourselves

#### Globalization & Sustainability

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.

### Sharing the planet

#### Fairness & Development

An 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.

### Where we are in place & time

#### Orientation in Space & Time

An inquiry into the orientation in place and time; personal histories; homes and journeys; the discoveries, explorations and migrations of humankind; the relationships between and the interconnectedness of individuals and civilizations, from local and global perspectives.

### How the world works

#### Scientific & Technical Innovation

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 and technological advances on society and on the environment

### How we express ourselves

#### Personal & Cultural Expression

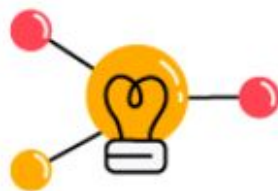
An inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values; the ways in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy our creativity; our appreciation of the aesthetic.

### Who we are

#### Identities & Relationships

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.

Key Concepts



Knowledge



Approaches to Learning

What does learning  
look like through the six  
Transdisciplinary Themes?



Action



Learner Profile Attributes



# Knowledge

## Elements of Transdisciplinary Learning



- Students in the PYP explore six subject knowledge areas: language; mathematics; science; social studies; arts; physical, social and personal education.

# Key Concepts

## Elements of Transdisciplinary Learning



- Concepts provide the language and the mental structure to foster ways of knowing and thinking across different subjects.

# Approaches to Learning

## Elements of Transdisciplinary Learning



- Students learn how to learn. Through the ATL, they develop the skills to take responsibility for their learning.

# Learner Profile Attributes

## Elements of Transdisciplinary Learning



- The IB has identified a set of ten attributes for the learner profile to nurture active, compassionate and lifelong learners.
- Students aim to become inquirers, principled, knowledge, open-minded, risk-takers, thinkers, communicators, balanced, reflective, and caring.

## Action

### Elements of Transdisciplinary Learning

- Students show understanding by taking action to make the world a better place.



# What are the ATL?

## Thinking

Students analyze ideas and explore creative solutions to solving real world problems.



## Communication

Students use diverse media to express their ideas and share their thinking with others.



## Research

Students have systems for finding and sharing their questions and understandings.



## Self-management

Students learn to manage their time, tasks, and emotions successfully.



## Social

Students develop empathy and the skills to engage successfully in a learning community.

