

Reasons to Teach Around Big Question Units of Inquiry

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BIG QUESTIONS

Units of inquiry should provide students with opportunities to investigate big questions

For example

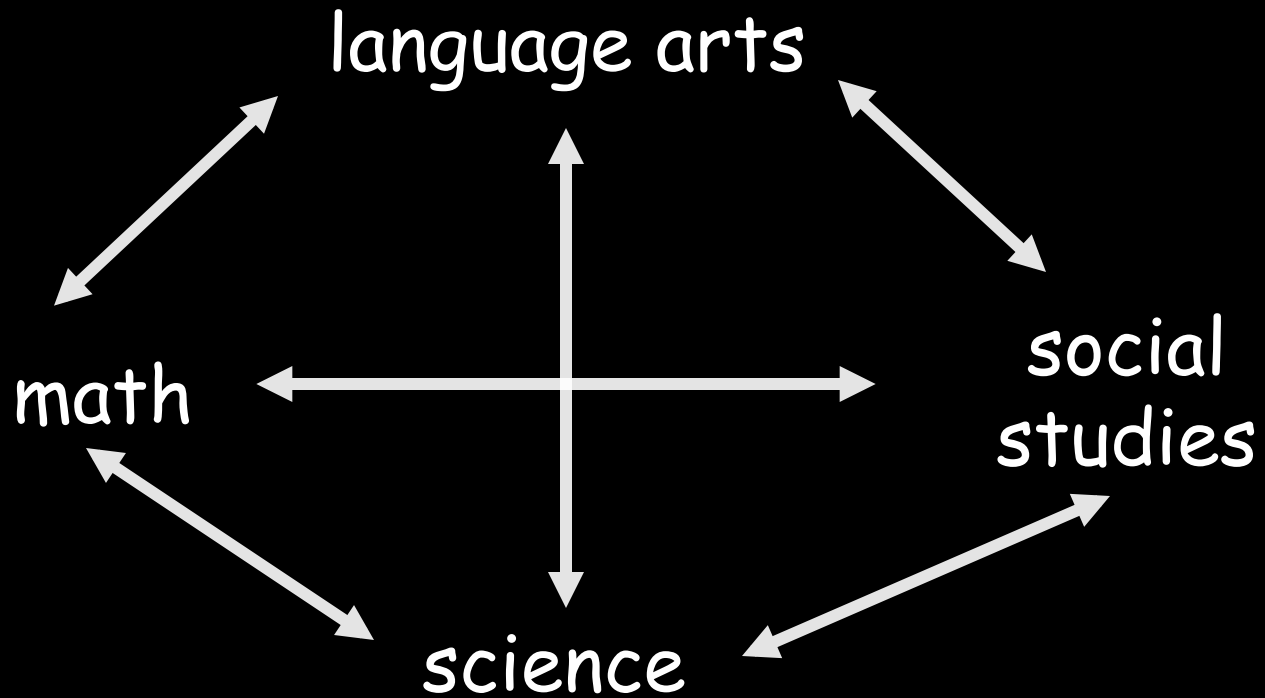
How does WHERE we live affect HOW we live?

How does food get from the field to the table?

Organize Around units of inquiry

- Ensure that all aspects of the curriculum are interrelated through units of inquiry

All content is interrelated



Why Organize Around Big Question Units of Inquiry?

- Through units of inquiry, teachers can connect curriculum to students' lives and backgrounds and draw on their language strengths
- Students know what the topic is even when instruction is in the second language.
- Because the same topics are studied across content areas and languages, students build academic concepts and vocabulary more easily.
- Because the curriculum makes sense, second language students are more fully engaged and experience more success.
- Teachers can differentiate instruction to accommodate differences in language proficiency.