



This document is designed to inform you of the learning planned for your child's next unit of inquiry. In addition we offer you some optional ideas for supporting your child at home.

Y5 Unit Overview

Sharing the Planet

In their second unit, the Year 5 students will inquire into Science strand **“Living Things.”** The students will investigate the science concepts of *biodiversity* and *interdependence* through the central idea, **“Biodiversity relies on maintaining a balance within nature.”**

They will be inquiring into:

- interdependence of organisms within the natural world (connection)
- factors that influence biodiversity (causation)
- our responsibility to maintain biodiversity (responsibility)

From these inquiries we hope the students will understand that organisms and the environment are interdependent; that even small changes in an environment and ecosystem can have wide reaching consequences; and that we all have responsibilities to maintain a balance within nature recognizing that even small actions can have a big impact. The thinking skills of **analysis** and **synthesis** will be the focus skills for this unit. These skills will help the students see the close connections between organisms in the environment, to be able to interpret information and draw conclusions as well as combine their current learning with their prior knowledge in order to create new understandings. Along with these skills students will also develop their understanding of what it means to be a **thinker** and the PYP attitude of **appreciation** as they think like scientists and problem solvers truly appreciating the natural world and what it provides us.

You may wish to support your child at home in the following ways:

Developing vocabulary:



Key vocabulary used in this unit will be:

biodiversity, interdependence, nature, habitat, food web, food chain, responsibility, causes, balance, extinction, deforestation, population, climate, reliance, ecosystem, diversity, species, native, indigenous

Please consider using your Mother Tongue to develop your child's understanding of these words.

Conceptual lenses:



This unit will be addressed through the lens of **connection, causation and responsibility**. The concept of *connection* will be discussed through questions such as, ‘Why is biodiversity important?’ and ‘How are different living things connected?’ We will explore the concept of *causation* as we investigate the causes of biodiversity loss and what impact that loss has on humans and the environment. When discussing our *responsibility* within this inquiry we will not only be talking about our responsibility and what we can do but we will also be asking who else might be responsible and what are they doing to help maintain nature's balance. Any conversations you can have with your child about these concepts will support the work we will be doing in class.

Fun things to do:



This is a great unit to discuss with your child, outdoors. Go for a hike and take time to observe the living things around you. What creatures are connected to each and depend on each other? Talk about the animals and plants that used to exist in Hong Kong and why they don't exist here anymore. Visit the parks around Hong Kong that are protected. Talk about why they are protected and what we gain from this. Look around your home at some of the products you wouldn't be able to live without. Where do these products come from? What animal or plant is used to make them? What might we not have in the future if we don't use things responsibly. Look through the newspaper. What current news is happening around the world that involves living things and the environment?

Look for action:



ACTION is a key element of the Primary Years Programme. We are always looking to see how children take their learning and apply it independently. This can take many forms - from a discussion about the unit of inquiry at home initiated by your child, role-play or even a request to bring a book or artifact to school because it relates to the work we have been doing in school. Now that you know what the unit is all about please keep your eyes open for evidence of action and let us know! **Any action that you tell us about will be kept as part of your child's records.**



“Success for Every Child”