



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.

Y4 Unit Overview

SHARING THE PLANET

In their third unit, the Year 4 students are inquiring into the science strand “**Living Things.**” The students will explore the concepts of adaptation, ecosystems and extinction through the central idea ‘**Living things survive and thrive in specific ecosystems.**’ Throughout the unit students will explore how living things and ecosystems have different features that can be named and categorised, how plants and animals adapt or respond to different environmental conditions because of the special physical and/or behavioural features they have and how human activity on the environment results in changes that can be damaging to some organisms. During the unit students will develop their understanding of what it means to be an **inquirer** as well as the PYP attitude of **appreciation**. Students will further develop their research skills as they **present their research findings** and develop their thinking skills with a particular focus on **comprehension**.

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

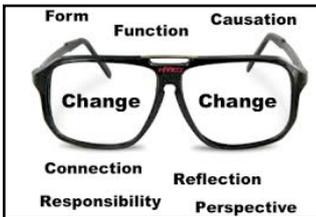
Developing vocabulary:



Key vocabulary used in this unit will be: environment, adapt, competition, respect, ecosystem, food chain, organism, rainforest, desert, polar ice cap, change, responsibility, causation, finite, resources, classification, variation, habitat, extinction

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

Conceptual questions:



*This unit will be addressed through the lens of **form**, **causation** and **responsibility**. Over the next few weeks try to ask your child lots of ‘Why?’ questions to develop their ability to articulate their thoughts and to increase their understanding of why things may have changed. Discuss with your child why things adapt and what causes those adaptations. Ask questions around responsibility such as what impact do humans have on the environment and living things? Is there anything that we can do to reduce our negative impact? Talk around these concepts in any context will support the work that we are doing in school.*

Fun things to do together:



Go on a walk to find plants and animals in Hong Kong. Discuss holidays you may have had in different countries, trying to remember the sorts of animals and plants you saw that were different to those you find in Hong Kong. Collect pictures or books about different environments. Go to the beach together and see how many creatures you can find. Investigate an ecosystem that interests you. Find out which animals are now extinct or face possible extinction in the future.

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 in 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”

