



McGraw Elementary Program of Inquiry 2025-2026



	Who we are	Where we are in place and time	How we express ourselves	How the world works	How we organize ourselves	Sharing the planet
	<p><i>An inquiry into identity as individuals and as part of a collective through:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ physical, emotional and spiritual health and well-being; ◆ relationships and belonging; ◆ learning and growing 	<p><i>An inquiry into histories and orientation in place, space and time through:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ periods, events and artifacts; ◆ communities, heritage, culture and environment; ◆ natural and human drivers of movement, adaptation and transformation 	<p><i>An inquiry into the diversity of voice, perspectives, and expression through:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ inspiration, imagination, creativity; ◆ personal, social, and cultural modes and practices of communication; ◆ intentions, perceptions, interpretations, and responses 	<p><i>An inquiry into the understandings of the world and phenomena through:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ patterns, cycles, systems; ◆ diverse practices, methods, and tools; ◆ discovery, design, innovation: possibilities and impacts 	<p><i>An inquiry into systems, structures, and networks through:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ interactions with and between social and ecological systems; ◆ approaches to livelihoods and trade practice - intended and unintended consequences; ◆ representation, collaboration and decision-making 	<p><i>An inquiry into the interdependence of human and natural worlds through:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ rights, responsibilities, and dignity of all; ◆ pathways to just, peaceful, and reimagined futures; ◆ nature, complexity, coexistence, and wisdom
KINDERGARTEN	<p>Central Idea: Exploring similarities and differences helps us understand ourselves and others.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Similarities and differences ◆ Introducing the Learner Profile ◆ Citizenship <p>Key Concepts: form, connection, perspective</p> <p>Related Concepts: identity, similarities and differences</p> <p>Specialist Support: PE, Music, Art</p>	<p>Central Idea: Patterns in weather and climate help us learn about place and time.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Observing weather patterns ◆ How weather patterns help us learn about time ◆ How climate patterns help us learn about place <p>Key Concepts: change, causation, connection</p> <p>Related Concepts: patterns, adaptations</p> <p>Specialist Support: Spanish</p>	<p>Central Idea: Imagination helps us express ourselves.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Imagination and creativity ◆ How we express our thoughts and feelings through imagination <p>Key Concepts: connection, perspective</p> <p>Related Concepts: imagination, creativity</p> <p>Specialist Support: Art, Music, Spanish</p>	<p>Central Idea: Cause and effect can be discovered and applied through exploration.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The effect different forces can have ◆ Designing solutions for a problem <p>Key Concepts: causation, function, change</p> <p>Related Concepts: cause and effect, processes, force</p> <p>Specialist Support: PE, Music, Art</p>		<p>Central Idea: Living things use the Earth to meet their needs.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ How living things meet their needs to survive ◆ How living things change the environment to meet their needs ◆ Solutions to reduce human impact on our environment <p>Key Concepts: connection, responsibility</p> <p>Related Concepts: interdependence</p> <p>Specialist Support: Spanish</p>



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1 S T G R A D E	<p>Central Idea: Individuals' actions can make a difference.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Actions that make a difference ◆ People all over the world who are inspirational <p>Key Concepts: change, perspective</p> <p>Related Concepts: action, inspiration, change, progress</p> <p>Specialist Support: Art, PE, Music, Spanish</p>	<p>Central Idea: The patterns within our solar system determine our natural world.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The motions of the solar system ◆ Patterns caused by Earth's movement <p>Key Concepts: form, causation</p> <p>Related Concepts: systems, patterns, motion</p>	<p>Central Idea: Events, celebrations and places reflect the identity of a community.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ What and why people celebrate ◆ Elements of celebrations ◆ Similarities and differences of celebrations <p>Key Concepts: perspective, connection</p> <p>Related Concepts: celebrations, community, culture, beliefs, values,</p> <p>Specialist Support: Art, Spanish</p>	<p>Central Idea: Patterns of motion can be a system of communication.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Vibration and sound ◆ Waves and light ◆ How sound and light are used for communication <p>Key Concepts: function and causation</p> <p>Related Concepts: communication, sound, light</p> <p>Specialist Support: Music</p>	<p>Central Idea: Communities depend on the people who live in them.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ How people work together in a community ◆ How people meet their needs and wants in a community ◆ How tools are used by people to provide goods and services <p>Key Concepts: causation, responsibility</p> <p>Related Concepts: communities, service</p>	<p>Central Idea: Plants and animals adapt to their environment in order to coexist.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Genetic attributes through life cycles ◆ Plant and animal adaptations to variable conditions ◆ Relationships between living things in an environment <p>Key Concepts: form, function</p> <p>Related Concepts: characteristics, environment, interdependence</p> <p>Specialist Support: Spanish</p>



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2 N D G R A D E	<p>Central Idea: Personal reflection leads to growth</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Developing and acquiring skills that impact our well-being ◆ Creating a balanced life ◆ Reflection and decision making <p>Key Concepts: responsibility, connection, reflection</p> <p>Related Concepts: well-being, balance, identity</p> <p>Specialist Support: Art, PE, Music</p>	<p>Central Idea: Events cause change to our world over time.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ How people study and understand the past ◆ The influence people in the past had on an area ◆ Events that led to change in a community <p>Key Concepts: causation, change</p> <p>Related Concepts: growth, geology, discovery</p> <p>Specialist Support: Art</p>	<p>Central Idea: By communicating our point of view, we can participate in a community.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Communicating and acknowledging a variety of different points of view ◆ Being aware of my own and other people's emotions ◆ Utilizing strategies to solve problems <p>Key Concepts: perspective, connection</p> <p>Related Concepts: opinions, teamwork, problem-solving,</p> <p>Specialist Support: PE, Spanish, Music</p>	<p>Central Idea: Patterns and cycles occur naturally in the world.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Identifying cycles ◆ Adaptations of living things <p>Key Concepts: relationships, causation</p> <p>Related Concepts: cycles, patterns</p> <p>Specialist Support: Spanish</p>	<p>Central Idea: Resources support organization in a community.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The influence people in the past had on an area ◆ How events change community resources <p>Key Concepts: organization</p> <p>Related Concepts: communities, natural events, geography</p>	<p>Central Idea: All living things depend on each other.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Diversity of living things in a habitat ◆ Resources living things need <p>Key Concepts: form, connection, causation</p> <p>Related Concepts: diversity, habitats, interdependence</p> <p>Specialist Support: Spanish</p>



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3 R D G R A D E	<p>Central Idea: Diversity impacts our relationships within the human and natural world.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Different forms of diversity ◆ Diversity in the natural world ◆ My unique identity as a member of a community ◆ Diversity and its impact on access to resources <p>Key Concepts: change, causation</p> <p>Related Concepts: identity, diversity, relationships, community</p> <p>Specialist Support: PE, Music, Spanish, Art</p>	<p>Central Idea: Culture and geography define what makes a region unique.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Characteristics of a region ◆ Similarities and differences between cultural and geographic regions ◆ Opportunities and challenges of living in different regions <p>Key Concepts: form, connection</p> <p>Related Concepts: regions, resources, sustainability, orientation, persuasion, attributes/features</p> <p>Specialist Support: Spanish</p>	<p>Central Idea: Storytelling provides opportunities to learn about the beliefs, values, culture and perspectives of others.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ How storytelling has evolved over time. ◆ How storytelling conveys and develops our own/others' ideas, beliefs and values ◆ The connection between the lessons we learn in stories and our everyday lives <p>Key Concepts: connection, perspective</p> <p>Related Concepts: storytelling, creativity, structure</p> <p>Specialist Support: Art, Spanish</p>	<p>Central Idea: Scientific discoveries about the natural world lead to improved technologies.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Types and patterns of forces and motions ◆ The relationship between force and motion ◆ Simple machines in our daily lives <p>Key Concepts: form, causation, function</p> <p>Related Concepts: discovery, energy, forces and motion</p> <p>Specialist Support: Music</p>	<p>Central Idea: Awareness of changing conditions helps people prepare and make decisions for their community.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Changing weather and climate patterns ◆ Causes of climate change ◆ The response of individuals, local government and businesses to our changing environment <p>Key Concepts: change, causation, responsibility</p> <p>Related Concepts: energy, magnetism, electricity, gravity, patterns, prediction, balance, systems, discovery</p>	<p>Central Idea: Natural and human influences affect organisms over time.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ How organisms and their habitats have changed over time ◆ Consequences of human actions on the life cycles of other organisms ◆ How where animals live impacts their physical and behavioral adaptations <p>Key Concepts: change, causation, connection</p> <p>Related Concepts: human impact, adaptations, cycles, habitats</p>



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4 T H G R A D E	<p>Central Idea: Understanding yourself is foundational for personal development.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Understanding who you are as an individual ◆ How goal setting can drive accomplishments ◆ The connections between positive and negative incentives and growth <p>Key Concepts: form, connection, reflection</p> <p>Related Concepts: individualism, positive and negative incentives, goal-setting, reflection</p> <p>Specialist Support: Art, Music, PE, Spanish</p>	<p>Central Idea: People move in response to their natural environment to seek opportunities.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The connection between physical environments and migration ◆ Ways in which nature provides resources for survival ◆ How exploration leads to change <p>Key Concepts: change, form, connection</p> <p>Related Concepts: human migration, survival, exploration</p> <p>Specialist Support: Art, Spanish</p>	<p>Central Idea: Creativity drives our expression.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Ways in which people draw inspiration ◆ How poetry is different than prose ◆ (student-created line/s of inquiry) <p>Key Concepts: causation, form, connection</p> <p>Related Concepts: creativity, inspiration, poetry</p> <p>Specialist Support: Art, Music</p>	<p>Central Idea: Living things adapt to survive the interactions and changes between Earth's systems.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ How living things interact with and adapt to Earth's spheres ◆ Patterns and features of the four major Earth spheres ◆ Human and natural effects on Earth's spheres ◆ Preparing for and reducing the impacts of Earth's natural processes <p>Key Concepts: causation, change, form</p> <p>Related Concepts: Earth Systems, patterns, human impact, interactions</p>	<p>Central Idea: Different perspectives over the value and use of resources lead to conflicts and unintended consequences.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Different perspectives over the value of resources ◆ Changing demand for resources over time ◆ Impact of human activity on the availability of resources ◆ Competition and conflict over resources <p>Key Concepts: function, connection, perspective, responsibility</p> <p>Related Concepts: resources, competition and conflict, consequences</p> <p>Specialist Support: Spanish, Music</p>	<p>Central Idea: In a defined state, people work together to solve problems and make decisions.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Functions and connections between governing bodies ◆ Individual and group decision-making ◆ Analyzing inequalities to take action in a community <p>Key Concepts: change, connection, perspective</p> <p>Related Concepts: decision-making, problem-solving, inequalities, governing bodies</p>



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5 T H G R A D E	<p>Central Idea: Our health and wellness depend on informed decisions and a balanced lifestyle.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The impact of our choices on ourselves and others ◆ Prevention and risk management ◆ Social and emotional wellness ◆ Physical and personal wellness <p>Key Concepts: function, change, responsibility</p> <p>Related Concepts: Lifestyle choices, human growth and development</p> <p>Specialist Support: PE, Art, Spanish</p>	<p>Central Idea: People of different cultures and backgrounds may struggle for rights and freedom.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Human rights in different places and times ◆ How people respond to threats against human rights ◆ Treatment of migrants and refugees <p>Key Concepts: form, perspective, connection</p> <p>Related Concepts: equality, immigration</p> <p>Specialist Support: Spanish, Music</p>	<p>Central Idea: Individuals are shaped by and can shape society.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ People use their platforms to effect change. ◆ There are a variety of ways to express ideas and beliefs ◆ Risks and rewards come with influential positions. ◆ Communicating our ideas affects people's lives. <p>Key Concepts: perspective, change, responsibility</p> <p>Related Concepts: advocacy, equity, opportunity</p> <p>Specialist Support: Art, Music</p>	<p>Central Idea: The interaction of Earth's systems affects access to resources.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Earth's spheres ◆ Protection of Earth's resources ◆ Water is a valuable natural resource ◆ Design and use models <p>Key Concepts: connection, form, function</p> <p>Related Concepts: interconnectedness, cycles</p> <p>Specialist Support: Spanish</p>	<p>5TH GRADE EXHIBITION</p> <p>Central Idea: TBD with students (<i>ex. - Sustainable practices can improve our lives and the world.</i>)</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Sustainable practices ◆ Choose, act, reflect ◆ Civic responsibility and philanthropy ◆ Impact of economic decision-making on societies, the environment, and individuals <p>Key Concepts: all</p> <p>Related Concepts: sustainability, stewardship, activism</p>	<p>Central Idea: Every living thing has an impact on its environment.</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Interdependent relationships in ecosystems ◆ Sustainability of ecosystems ◆ How changes in biodiversity affect the entire ecosystem ◆ How human interaction with the environment affects the balance of ecosystems <p>Key Concepts: causation, connection, responsibility</p> <p>Related Concepts: biodiversity, agriculture</p>