



Carpenter Elementary Units of Inquiry

Grade Level	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
Descriptors	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	An inquiry into 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.	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 aesthetics.	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.	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.	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.
TK*	<p>Central Idea: Knowing myself helps me work with others.</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Function ● Connection ● Responsibility <p>Lines of Inquiry: An Inquiry Into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Who I am ● Maintaining familiar relationships ● Building friendships 	<p>Central Idea: Our personal histories help shape us and who we can become.</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Perspective ● Change ● Causation <p>Lines of Inquiry: An Inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Personal experiences ● Changes over time ● Impacting our futures 	<p>Central Idea: Creativity cultivates our personal expression</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <p>Perspective Form Function</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry: An Inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Different forms of Art ● Artists' motivation to create ● Creativity as a form of communicating 	<p>Central Idea: Humans coincide with other living things</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Change ● Connection ● Causation <p>Lines of Inquiry: An Inquiry Into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● living things ● living things and their needs ● human impact on other living things 		

<p>Kindergarten*</p>	<p>Central Idea: Positive choices form strong character traits</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Causation ● Responsibility ● Change <p>Lines of Inquiry: An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Personal choices have positive and negative consequences ● Ways to identify and solve problems ● Character Building 		<p>Central Idea: Diversity expands our understanding which shapes our identity.</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Perspective ● Connection ● Responsibility <p>Lines of Inquiry: An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Diversity ● Personal experiences ● Cultural Celebrations 		<p>Central Idea: How our responsibility as members of the community affect our environment.</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Connection ● Responsibility ● Function <p>Lines of Inquiry: An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Relationships with friends ● Relationships with family ● Relationships with our Community 	<p>Central Idea: Limited Resources influence behavior</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Function ● Causation ● Perspective <p>Lines of Inquiry: An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Different types of resources - Equal sharing - Change of behavior
<p>1st Grade</p>	<p>Central Idea: Our behaviors impact the growth of all living things.</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Function ● Causation ● Connection <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The impact of my behavior on others ● The ways we can self-regulate (humans, animals, plants) ● How the behaviors of all living things change over time 	<p>Central Idea: People of different cultures connect through shared principles.</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Form ● Connection ● Perspective <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How I learn about and celebrate my culture (cultural self-awareness) ● The ways that different cultures connect in my community (interconnectedness-community) ● Appreciating any culture that is different from my own (appreciation of our differences-globally) 	<p>Central Idea: Community expression can inspire change.</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Perspective ● Causation ● Connection <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Symbols around me ● Symbolism within self-expression ● Self-expression can inspire change in our community 	<p>Central Idea: Patterns in our environment can help balance our resources.</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Form ● Function ● Change <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identifying Patterns ● Developing routines based on resources ● Balance and adaptation of patterns 	<p>Central Idea: For any system to function properly, all components are accountable to one another</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Function ● Responsibility ● Causation <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Different types of systems and their components ● Our role in each system ● The consequences of our actions 	<p>Central Idea: My actions can affect the resources in my world</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Change ● Form ● Responsibility <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How we obtain our resources ● The resources in my community ● Resources are renewable

<p>2nd Grade</p>	<p>Central Idea: Our actions can inspire change around the world</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Causation ● Perspective ● Change <p>Lines of Inquiry: An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The traits that I identify in a hero ● The traits that my community (local and national) identifies as a hero ● The traits the world identifies as heroic 	<p>Central Idea: Histories are shaped by the changes that occur over time.</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Form ● Causation ● Connection <p>Lines of Inquiry: An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The important events in our lives. ● The history of my life. ● The similarities and differences between my daily life and my elders’. 	<p>Central Idea: The ways we communicate determine our interactions within society.</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Function ● Responsibility ● Connection <p>Lines of Inquiry: An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Different types of interactions in my life ● Interactions in my community ● Citizens’ interactions in their community 	<p>Central Idea: Systems depend on each other for survival.</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Function ● Change ● Perspective <p>Lines of Inquiry: An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Plant needs ● Animal needs ● The interdependence of plants and animals 	<p>Central Idea: The interdependence between consumers and producers impacts my decision making.</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Responsibility ● Connection ● Form <p>Lines of Inquiry: An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The difference between producers and consumers ● The interdependence of producers and consumers ● How limits on resources affect production and consumption 	<p>Central Idea: Sharing essential resources can lead to a better quality of life.</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Perspective ● Change ● Causation <p>Lines of Inquiry: An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Essential resources and their property of matter ● The location of essential resources ● Resources that cause conflict and how to solve it
<p>3rd Grade</p>	<p>Central Idea: People have the responsibility to create communities where everyone feels a sense of belonging.</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Form ● Perspective ● Connection <p>Lines of Inquiry: An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Successful communities ● Who we are as a community ● Our responsibility in our communities to create a sense of belonging 	<p>Central Idea: Exploration leads us to discoveries.</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Function ● Causation ● Change <p>Lines of Inquiry: An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exploration ● Historical and physical exploration ● Discoveries that are made through exploration 	<p>Central Idea: Understanding that past and present traditions reflect the way we express ourselves.</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Responsibility ● Form ● Connection <p>Lines of Inquiry: An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Different forms of expression ● Traditions that are passed down ● How we build traditions 	<p>Central Idea: Our curiosity leads us to understand the relationship between geographic regions and weather.</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Connection ● Change ● Function <p>Lines of Inquiry: An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Geographical regions ● Weather and patterns ● Geographic regions and their weather patterns 	<p>Central Idea: The structure of systems help organize living things.</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Form ● Function ● Causation <p>Lines of Inquiry: An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Human made systems ● Ecosystems ● The impact of systems 	<p>Central Idea: People can make choices to support the sustainability of resources.</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Connection ● Responsibility ● Causation <p>Lines of Inquiry: An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Local resources in a community ● Rights and responsibilities ● How our choices impact our resources

<p>4th Grade</p>	<p>Central Idea: Human migration leads to new opportunities.</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Connection ● Change ● Causation <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Migration ● The cause and effect of migration ● New opportunities 	<p>Central Idea: Change happens in a response to a variety of influences.</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Change ● Causation ● Form <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How change happens ● What causes changes physically and geographically ● The effects of the physical and geographical changes 	<p>Central Idea: A creator’s background, experience, and cultural perspective influences their work.</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Perspective ● Connection ● Function <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Different personal experiences ● Cultural perspective ● How cultural perspective and experiences influence you 	<p>Central Idea: Innovation leads to progress in society and the environment.</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Perspective ● Change ● Responsibility <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Both past and present ● The impact that innovations have on society ● The impact that innovations have on the environment 	<p>Central Idea: Structures in an organization create effective outcomes.</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Function ● Responsibility ● Form <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An organization with effective structure ● The function of an organization ● The different roles of an organization 	<p>Central Idea:</p> <p>Key Concepts:</p> <p>Lines of Inquiry:</p> <p>*In progress*</p>
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*TK and Kindergarten are only required to develop and implement 4 out of the 6 themes.

*revised 9/29/23