Some Questions about Thematic Teaching

1. What is Thematic Teaching?
Thematic Teaching is when you focus on a topic of interest and combine subjects such as language arts, science, music and art over a long duration of time, whether it be a week or a month.

2. Why Thematic Teaching?
Thematic Teaching helps students stay focused and excited about what they are learning.

3. How will themes help my students?
By using themes in the classroom, you will see a considerable difference in their abilities to work well in groups, speak well in front of others, increase their writing ability with topic interest, and gain in their thinking and learning skills.

References


Making Themes Integral in the Classroom

Michelle Smart
Planning Instruction

• First things first, you need to find a topic of interest for your students. There are many ways of doing this, either through a questionnaire that is passed out in class asking what their interests, hobbies and backgrounds are or a group discussion based on which topics have been previously studied with interest. Allowing your students to have an input will give them the ability to make connections between different areas of knowledge, and understand why they are learning it and how it relates to their education and lives.

• Start building your curriculum based around a topic of interest. Let's say the students have decided that their theme is flowers. What you would then begin to do is:
  o Decorate your room in the theme, in this case it would be flowers.
  o Have the students do a team building activity of planting flowers in a flower box outside of the classroom.
  o Read stories, books, articles and poems revolving around flowers, their life cycle, beauty, names and locations.
  o Study the life cycle of plants through hands on experiments and observations in the classroom.
  o Measure the plants and make predictions of how tall they will grow.
  o What animals eat what plants and why? What plants do humans eat?
  o The history of civilizations and what types of plants did they eat to survive?
  o Medicinal plants and how they help humans daily.
  o Writing a report on different flower and plant species.

The Objective

• When teaching in themes and with student-relative subject matter is to aspire to see a growth and realization in the students understanding.

• When a student can take what they have learned and put it into their own words or their own examples, there is a strong sense of intellectual capacity and confidence that emerges from the student who can make the connection.

• Students each gravitate naturally towards their own learning concepts. With the help of Gardiner’s Multiple Intelligences Theory you can find out priceless information about each of your students learning styles, thus helping create your successful thematic curriculum.

Using “Reflective Synthesis” for Assessment

• Students will be taught the ability to understand the connection with a subject area, a theme, and possibly something relative in their life.

• Once students make these connections they then reflect on what they have learned, how they have learned it and why were they able to comprehend what they have learned.

• Students will gain a strong understanding of the goals and objectives of the lesson by being able to reflect and look at the path that got them there.