Designing Effective Projects: Planning Projects
Plan a Project

Project Design Process

Use these process prompts to guide your efforts in designing your own unit plan.

Project Title	Subject/ Grade
Name	**Time Required**

Step 1: Determine specific learning goals by using content standards and desired higher-order thinking skills.	
From your standards and your own high expectations, what is it that you want your students to be able to know, do, or understand?	
What higher-order thinking skills do you want to target?	

Step 2: Develop Curriculum-Framing Questions.	
What is the big idea in those targeted standards?	
What Essential, Unit, and Content Questions will you use to help focus the learning for your students?	

Essential Questions are provocative and make students think about the lessons within a greater context. Example: *How can we explain the things that happen around us?*
Unit Questions focus attention on the important objectives of the project. Example: *Are there rules that affect the way things move? What rules affect whether an object floats or sinks?*
Content Questions lead to fundamental and specific answers. Example: *How are density, buoyancy, and displacement related? How can you measure volume of irregular solids?*

Step 3: Make an Assessment Plan.	
How will you know your student shave met the learning goals?	
By what criteria will students be assessed?	

What methods of assessment will you use throughout the project in order to inform you and your students about their learning process?	
What reporting and monitoring methods will you use to encourage student self-management and progress during independent and group work?	
Step 4: Design Activities.	
What scenarios will you develop to provide rich learning opportunities to help students meet the learning goals?	
How can you involve students in problem-solving investigations or other meaningful tasks that will help answer the Curriculum-Framing Questions and establish connections to life outside the classroom and address real-world concerns?	
Use a Project Checklist to assess and improve your plan.	