

Resource Guide: Cross-Curricular Connections with Literacy

Vision:

New Mexico defines cross-curricular connections as connections between two or more areas of study made by teachers or students within the structure of a subject. By identifying and planning with cross-curricular connections in mind, instruction in literacy builds knowledge, and therefore comprehension, around a given topic. When these connections are paired with appropriately complex texts and high-quality tasks, rigorous and equitable literacy instruction happens for all New Mexico students.

Purpose:

Cross-curricular connections allow for planning around topics that will build knowledge and vocabulary. Connecting literacy to other content areas allows this development to continue throughout instruction. Planning with specific texts in mind, keeps the text at the center of unit and lesson planning. This allows the four core tenets of rigorous and equitable literacy instruction to exist for all New Mexico students.

Suggested Topics for Building Knowledge in 1st Grade:

Possible Topics for Building Knowledge:	Suggestions to consider when planning	Subject-areas and Standards that Align with this Topic
Seasons and Weather	Incorporate words that appeal to the senses through poetry; include tools that measure weather. Text Examples: <i>The Book of Clouds</i> Juris Kronbergs <i>Snowflakes</i> by Helen Moore	Science
Community Helpers	Use a variety of nonfiction and fiction texts; how community helpers help us; community scavenger hunt.	Social Studies Geography Content Standard II K-4 Benchmark II-C Health Content Standard 2 K-4 Benchmark 4
Families in Our Communities Families Other Places	Incorporate local cultures, different family structures & holidays in USA, Mexico, Canada. Text examples: <i>Everybody Cooks Rice</i> <i>Children Just Like Me</i>	Social Studies K-4 Benchmark I-C K-4 Benchmark II-B K-4 Benchmark II-E
Friendship	Connect to character traits (honesty, loyalty, courage, fairness); Consider the relationship between compassionate behavior and embracing diversity. Text example: <i>The Day You Begin</i> by Jacqueline Woodson	Social Studies Strand: Civics and Government K-4 Benchmark III-D 1-1 Health K-4 Benchmark 2. 1-2, 2.

Animal and Plant Life Cycles	<p>Use a variety of animal and plant life cycles.</p> <p>Text example: <i>The Impatient Caterpillar</i></p>	Science 1-LS1-2, 1-LS3-1
Day and Night	<p>Incorporate non-fiction and fiction texts; patterns; phases of the moon; seasons; nocturnal animals; students understand there are predictable patterns within Earth's system.</p>	Science (1-ESS1-1; 1-ESS1-2) Earth's Systems