

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 Kindergarten:

Possible Topics for Building Knowledge:	Suggestions to consider when planning	Subject-areas and Standards that Align with this Topic
New Mexico Culture/Customs	Build a book table with fiction/nonfiction materials related to NM cultures/customs.	Social Studies K.1.A, II.C, II.C.F, IV.A
Early Settlers in US	Start with Thanksgiving with Native Americans and Pilgrims and expand to the 13 colonies and US. Cross reference with maps/atlas and mapping activities. Famous People who are in each era. Ways to show past/present.	Social Studies, geography, art, writing
Symbols of the United States	Look for patterns of local, state, and national symbols. Read books that describe the symbols and what they represent such as fiction and nonfiction texts. Look at videos that describe the symbols. Create anchor charts that use specific vocabulary that ties to the symbols. As a culminating activity, students can create their class symbol that integrates the concepts that students have learned about.	Social studies, art, writing

Relationships in Ecosystems	<p>Use a lot of nonfiction text to read about the relationships and how animals and plants relate to each other.</p> <p>Have students work in a greenhouse to see how they are dependent on each other.</p> <p>Show how ecosystems are similar to communities.</p>	science, social studies, art, writing
Citizenship	<p>Fiction/nonfiction books (anchor charts, multimedia, video (make a video), project-based learning with issues around school.</p> <p>Members of community- identify, etc.</p>	government
Weather	Fiction/nonfiction books about weather, do an observation chart identifying weather patterns throughout the day (colder in a.m.; # of sunny days vs. rainy/cloudy days).	science, math, writing