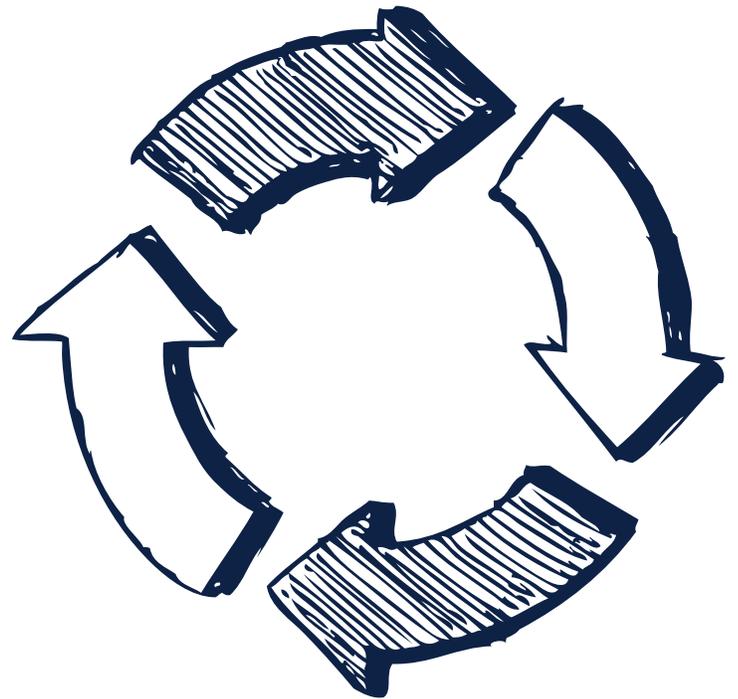


Global Essential Questions



Global Essential Questions

Global Essential Questions are critical for any teacher interested in global teaching and learning. Effective essential questions point to the big ideas within a global lesson or unit of study and engage students in ways that promote inquiry-based learning. Students use critical thinking and problem-solving skills to research, discuss, synthesize, evaluate and create products that answer essential questions. Essential questions are also important in assessing students' understanding of the main concepts of a lesson or unit.

In order to promote inquiry-based learning, essential questions should:

- Be open-ended and thought-provoking; they should not be answerable with “yes” or “no,” and should not start with “who” or “when,” as such questions yield narrow answers.
- Prompt answers that build on prior knowledge.
- Open up possibilities for interdisciplinary connections.
- Lead to more questions.

In the context of global learning, essential questions invite students to explore the complex relationships between world's cultures, environments, educational structures and eco-political systems.

Global Society

Unit 1- Cultural Dimensions

1. What do we mean by the word “culture”?
2. What are the visible and invisible components of culture?
3. How do the invisible elements of culture affect behavior?
4. What is the difference between an individualistic culture and a collectivistic culture?
5. What is power distance?
6. How can you see power distance in different cultures?
7. How do cultures differ in relation to the way that they conceive of and manage time?
8. What are the different ways that cultures express their relationship with nature?
9. What does it mean to be a “being culture” versus a “doing culture”?

Unit 2- Intercultural Communication

1. What is the difference between direct and indirect communication styles? How accurate are our perceptions of another culture?
2. What is the difference between linear and circular communication styles? What does our language tell us about our culture?
3. How do linear and circular communication styles relate to direct and indirect communications styles?
4. What is the difference between expressive and restrained communication styles?
5. How do expressive and restrained communication styles affect interactions between people?
6. How does your culture influence the way you live your life?

Unit 3- Social Entrepreneurship

1. What distinguishes social entrepreneurship from business entrepreneurship?
2. What actions, behaviors or dispositions are necessary for a person to be considered a social entrepreneur?
3. What is microfinance lending and how do I get involved in this type of social entrepreneurship?
4. To what extent do societal conditions, religious practices or politics drive the need for microfinance lending?
5. Are there any current or future threats to the practice of microfinance lending?

Global Geography

Unit 4- The Spanish-, Chinese-, and Arabic-speaking Countries

1. What are your perceptions of Spanish-speaking cultures?
2. Where are Spanish-speaking countries located in the world?
3. What are some of the common characteristics of Spanish-speaking countries?
4. What are the roots of the power distance and collectivism in Spanish-speaking cultures?
5. How does the Spanish language differ among cultures?
6. What are your perceptions of Chinese-speaking cultures?
7. Where are the Chinese-speaking countries located in the world?

Unit 5- Social Entrepreneurship - Physical and Cultural Geography

1. What is the location of your entrepreneurship region of study relative to the Chinese-, Spanish-, and Arabic-speaking countries?
2. How do the geographic characteristics of your entrepreneurship region of study promote or inhibit the movement of goods, people, and ideas with other countries?
3. How do the geographic features of your entrepreneurship region of study promote or inhibit entrepreneurial efforts that support a high standard of living?
4. How can entrepreneurs maximize earnings by leveraging the geographic characteristics of their region?
5. How can changes in geographic characteristics impact entrepreneurs?

Global Environment

Unit 6- Natural Resources

1. What are Latin America's natural resources?
2. What are the interrelationships of the Latin American resources with the rest of the world?
3. What are China's natural resources and what effect does their use have on the Chinese economy and environment?
4. How are natural resources connected to politics and the economy of the Arabic-speaking countries?

Unit 7: Social Entrepreneurship - Environment and Natural Resources

1. What are the natural resources of your entrepreneurship region of study and the anthropogenic impacts on the environment of using those natural resources and how do they compare to those of other regions?
2. What gaps in global conservation and sustainability efforts involving natural resources currently exist in your entrepreneurship region of study and how do they compare to those of other regions?
3. What are the potential human efforts that could have a positive impact on the global environment of your entrepreneurship region of study and how do they compare to those of other regions?

Global Education

Unit 8- Digital Divide and Education

1. What is the Internet?
2. Who created the Internet and why?
3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using the Internet in an educational setting?
4. What is the digital divide between the United States and a Spanish-, Chinese-, or Arabic-speaking country?
5. What does the educational system in a Spanish-, Chinese-, or Arabic-speaking country look like?

Unit 9- Social Entrepreneurship - Technology Access and Education

1. How does the educational system of your entrepreneurship region of study provide equal access and opportunity to members of both genders?
2. How does the educational system of your entrepreneurship region of study provide equal access and opportunity to members of all socioeconomic classes?
3. How do the educational resources (human resources, instructional resources, buildings/facilities) of your entrepreneurship region of study compare to those of other Chinese-, Spanish-, and Arabic-speaking countries?
4. What are the impacts of the digital divide on your entrepreneurship region of study?
5. How would your future opportunities differ if you were educated in your entrepreneurship region of study in comparison to your current school system?

Global Economy

Unit 10- Economic Expansion

1. How does China's economy compare to the U.S. economy?
2. What are the working conditions in China?

Unit 11- Urbanization

1. How do Spanish-speaking cultural dimensions affect urban living?
2. How does the Latin American family unit represent several cultural dimensions?
3. What are the effects of urbanization on the people of China?

4. How does urbanization affect the Chinese cultural dimension of collectivism?
5. What are the effects of urbanization on the people of Arabic-speaking countries?

Unit 12- Intercultural Business Communication

1. What are the business practices, proper protocol, and greetings in a Spanish-speaking country?
2. How do the business practices of a Spanish-speaking country relate to cultural dimensions and intercultural communication styles?
3. What are the business practices, proper protocol, and greetings in a Chinese-speaking country?
4. How do the business practices of a Chinese-speaking country relate to cultural dimensions and intercultural communication styles?
5. What are the business practices, proper protocol, and greetings in an Arabic-speaking country?
6. How do the business practices of an Arabic-speaking country relate to cultural dimensions and intercultural communication styles?

Unit 13- Social Entrepreneurship - Global Business Opportunities

1. To what extent does your social entrepreneurship region of study offer economic expansion opportunities to international businesses?
2. To what degree is urbanization in your social entrepreneurship region of study positively impacting opportunities for international businesses?
3. How should international businesses prepare to successfully do business in your social entrepreneurship region of study?

Global Politics



Unit 14: Government and Human Rights

1. What are human rights?
2. What is the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights?
3. What are the human rights issues in Arabic-speaking cultures?
4. Why do people emigrate and how does this affect the people who are emigrating?
5. What happens to a person's culture when they become immigrants into another culture?
6. In what ways is culture transmitted to school-aged children?
7. How has Maoism contributed to the Communist rule in China?
8. What are the tenets of communism in China?
9. How has the Chinese government restricted human rights?

Unit 15- Religion

1. What are the primary religions in the Chinese-speaking cultures?
2. How has religion affected the culture in the Chinese-speaking countries?
3. What is the relationship between the Chinese government and freedom of religion?
4. What are the basic beliefs and traditions of Islam?
5. How does Islam affect the politics of the Arab Spring?

Unit 16: Gender Relations

1. How does power distance, as a cultural dimension, affect gender relations in Latin American cultures?
2. How are women advancing in the workplace in Latin America?
3. What is the family structure in Chinese-speaking countries?
4. How do the cultural dimensions of individualism/collectivism, power distance, and masculinity/femininity relate to the Chinese family structure?
5. What position in the Chinese culture did women hold in the past and currently in the present?
6. How are men and women treated in Arabic-speaking cultures related to Islam?
7. How are women trying to modernize in Arabic-speaking cultures?
8. What are the cultural dimensions of the Arabic-speaking cultures?

Unit 17- Conflict

1. What are the ongoing issues between China and Taiwan?
2. What are the ongoing issues between China and Tibet?
3. What are the differing perspectives in regard to the China, Taiwan, and Tibet controversies?
4. What role does the U.S. play in the China, Taiwan, and Tibet controversies?
5. What is the "Arab Spring"?
6. What were the events, causes, locations, and resolutions of the Arab Spring?
7. How did technology play a role in the Arab Spring?
8. What are the current events of the Arab Spring revolutions?

Unit 18: Social Entrepreneurship - Human Rights, Religion and Politics

1. To what extent does your entrepreneurship region of study's government comply with the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights?
2. How does religion impact the human rights, gender equality and conflict in your entrepreneurship region of study?
3. In your entrepreneurship region of study, do members of both genders have equitable access to opportunities associated with increasing quality of life?
4. Has the political conflict in your entrepreneurship region of study yielded outcomes that are more positive or more negative for its citizens?



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