

UbD-Related Websites

Compiled by Jay McTighe

GENERAL WEBSITES

The following websites provide examples of *Understanding by Design* curriculum work in **States/Provinces**, **School Districts**, and **Schools**.

STATES

New Jersey – Scroll down the page to “Standards Clarification: All Content Areas” to download a pdf file containing a collection of overarching (program level) big ideas, understandings and essential questions.

<http://www.nj.gov/education/aps/njscp/>

Delaware – Click on the various subject areas to see Enduring Understandings and Essential Questions derived from State Standards. Click on CLARIFICATION DOCUMENTS to view.

<http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/staff/ci/default.shtml>

Pennsylvania – Instructions for navigating this site:

See “SAS Circles Explained” at the bottom of the page. You will see that PDE is using language similar to UbD (i.e., “Big Ideas = Enduring Understandings”). Select a content area (e.g., SAS Applied to Mathematics), a grade range (e.g., 6 – 8) or a Grade/Course (e.g., Pre-Algebra) at the bottom of the page. Go to “Curriculum Framework” to view Big Ideas (EUs)

<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=4228&mode=2>

Please note that this is a work in progress; hence, some of the options have limited amounts of information or no information at all. You can work your way down each component by clicking on the “+” sign to expand the section. You may want to look at the Essential Questions too as they are arranged by Competencies and the Competencies are categorized by PA Standards.

Partnership for 21st Century Skills

Scroll down the page and click on:

- 1) 21st Skills Maps that illustrate ways in which 21st Century Skills can be infused in English and Social Studies

- 2) Information, Communication and Technology (ITC) Literacy Maps that illustrate ways in which 21st Century Skills can be infused in English, Geography, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. (downloadable pdf files)

http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=82&Itemid=185

High Tech High School

<http://www.hightechhigh.org/resource-center/>

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Grand Island, NE has developed K-12 Curriculum maps, UbD Units and Cornerstone assessments for various subject areas.

<http://www.gips.org/>

From the HOME PAGE, click on “Learning”, then “Curricular Areas” then, “Course/grade level maps”, “enduring understandings”, “essential questions” and “philosophy and beliefs.”

Click on Subject Areas and Grade Levels to access “curriculum blueprints” (aka curriculum maps) in Mathematics, Reading/Language Arts, Science and Social Studies. The blueprints contain Understandings and Essential Questions.

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/curriculum/blueprints.html>

Fort Thomas, KY – Using UbD to frame district Curriculum

Weathersfield, CT – Using UbD to frame district Curriculum

www.wethersfield.k12.ct.us

Colorado Springs, CO – Using UbD to frame district Curriculum

<http://www.d11.org/doi/curriculum/>

Click on curriculum and then click on curriculum documents.

Lincoln, MA – Select subject areas and then “big ideas” to view overarching understandings

<http://www.lincnet.org/Curriculum/curriculummain.shtml>

**check site*

Unit plans developed by Intel Education contain Essential Questions. Click on unit tiles to view.

http://www.intel.com/corporate/education/emea/eng/za/elem_sec/tools_resources/plans/selectplans.htm

Units from the Harvard Teaching for Understanding project.

<http://learnweb.harvard.edu/alps/tfu/pictures.cfm>

UbD and CURRICULUM MAPPING

The following schools and districts are mapping their curriculum based on UbD and using Atlas Rubicon mapping software. Click on “Browse” to search UbD units.

Nanuet Union School District

<http://nufsd.rubiconatlas.org/c/etc/options.php?UserID=0>

Hopkinton Public Schools MA

<http://hopkinton.rubiconatlas.org/c/etc/options.php>

(sharing only Stage 1 of their UbD)

Jakarta International School

<http://jisedu.rubiconatlas.org/c/etc/options.php?UserID=0>

Graded School in Sao Paulo, Brazil

<http://graded.rubiconatlas.org/c/etc/options.php?UserID=0>

(only sharing Stage 1 and part of Stage 3)

STAGE 1 – UNDERSTANDINGS and ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

***** CAREER EDUCATION *****

CONSUMER, FAMILY, AND LIFE SKILLS

A collection of overarching (program level) big ideas, understandings and essential questions developed by the New Jersey DOE. Scroll down to page 24 to view.

<http://www.nj.gov/education/aps/njscp/Phase1allAreas.pdf#page=24>

http://www.doe.k12.de.us/programs/ci/content_areas/files/fcs/C-Big%20Idea,%20Enduring%20Understandings,%20and%20Essential%20Questions.pdf

***** **HEALTH and PHYSICAL EDUCATION** *****

A collection of overarching (program level) big ideas, understandings and essential questions developed by the New Jersey DOE. Scroll down to page 3 to view.

<http://www.nj.gov/education/aps/njscp/Phase1allAreas.pdf#page=3>

http://www.doe.k12.de.us/programs/ci/content_areas/files/Grade%20Cluster%20Enduring%20Understandings.pdf

Essential questions for a health course.

www.berkley.k12.mi.us/file.../idHealth%20Curriculum2008.pdf

***** **ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS** *****

A collection of overarching (program level) big ideas, understandings and essential questions developed by the New Jersey DOE. Scroll down to page 7 to view.

<http://www.nj.gov/education/aps/njscp/Phase1allAreas.pdf#page=7>

THEMES AND ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS IN LITERATURE – Greece Schools, NY

http://www.greece.k12.ny.us/devel/Dist_Indices/departments.htm

then, CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

then, ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

then, THEMES & ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

Scroll down the left side of the screen to see Essential Questions on literary themes. (Note: The Grade Level EQs support connections with the companion History/Social Studies courses.)

A set of overarching Themes and Essential Questions in literature, developed in Pomperaug Region 15 Schools, CT. Scroll down to "Themes and and Essential Questions in Literature" to download a pdf file.

<http://www.region15.org/curriculum/>

***** **MATHEMATICS** *****

District curriculum in Montgomery County, MD identifies EUs and EQs for the mathematics curriculum.

<http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/curriculum/math/elmath.htm>

Scroll to bottom of page and click on the grade level files under the heading “Content Maps – K-5 to see Understandings, Essential Questions and content indicators for each unit in the year’s curriculum.

Middle School and High School – Click on course titles on left side of screen.

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/math/msmath.htm>

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/math/hsmath.htm>

A collection of overarching (program level) big ideas, understandings and essential questions developed by the New Jersey DOE. Scroll down to page 10 to view.

<http://www.nj.gov/education/aps/njscp/Phase1allAreas.pdf#page=10>

A collection of overarching (program level) big ideas, understandings and essential questions developed by the Delaware DOE

http://www.doe.k12.de.us/files/pdf/pcs_MathClarification.pdf

Presents eight overarching essential questions in Mathematics. Click on CURRICULUM link, then “Themes for Mathematics” to download a pdf file of the questions.

http://www.region15.org/teaching_learning.shtml

Science Atlas of Scientific Literacy (AAAS Project 2061)

While the focus of this website is primarily science, it includes a basic set of “big ideas” in mathematics, organized as K-12 concept maps. Click on VIEW SAMPLE MAPS:

Atlas 1 – Scroll to PROPORTIONAL REASONING Ratios and Proportionality and click on the link to view.

Atlas 2 – THE NATURE OF MATHEMATICS and click on the link to view.

<http://www.project2061.org/publications/atlas/default.htm>

***** SCIENCE *****

Science Atlas of Scientific Literacy (AAAS Project 2061)

Presents "big ideas" in science according to conceptual strands (e.g., force, motion). Includes a basic set of "big ideas" in mathematics. The science ideas are organized as K-12 concept maps to illustrate the developmental progression of understanding of important ideas in science. The maps also show links to related concepts. Click on VIEW SAMPLE MAPS – Atlas 1 and 2 to view.

<http://www.project2061.org/publications/atlas/default.htm>

A K-12 curriculum framework for Science framed under a set of Enduring Understandings and Essential Questions developed by the state of Connecticut. Click on Curriculum Framework 2004 Science Matrix to download a WORD file.

<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2618&q=320890>

A collection of overarching (program level) big ideas, understandings and essential questions developed by the New Jersey DOE. Scroll down to page 13 to view.

<http://www.nj.gov/education/aps/njscp/Phase1allAreas.pdf#page=13>

A collection of overarching (program level) big ideas, understandings and essential questions developed by the Delaware DOE. You need to scroll mid-way through the document to view them.

http://www.doe.state.de.us/files/pdf/science_clarification.pdf

A collection of Understandings in Middle School Science. Scroll down to "Enduring Understandings" and click on "WORD" or "PDF" file to access.

<http://www.seattlescience.com/sections/modules/general-resources>

A collection of Understandings for Earth Science develop through the Earth Science by Design project.

http://www.esbd.org/resources/big_ideas.html

***** SOCIAL STUDIES *****

A collection of overarching (program level) big ideas, understandings and essential questions developed by the New Jersey DOE. Scroll down to page 17 to view.

<http://www.nj.gov/education/aps/njscp/Phase1allAreas.pdf#page=17>

A collection of overarching (program level) big ideas, understandings and essential questions developed by the Delaware DOE. Scroll down to Social Studies, then click on the various links to view.

http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/staff/ci/DRC/drc_clarificationDocs.shtml

A collection of Essential Questions in the Social Studies compiled by Jay McTighe.

http://oq.ca.campusgrid.net/home/Teacher+Information/essential_questions.htm

A collection of six overarching themes for History, stated as understandings.

http://www.michiganepic.org/historythemes/themes_themesus1.html

A set of overarching Essential Questions, developed in Pomperaug Region 15 Schools, CT. Scroll down to Social Studies and click on "Themes" to download a pdf file.

<http://www.region15.org/curriculum/>

Essential Questions in Civics and Government from the Center for Civic Education

<http://www.civiced.org/912toc.htm>

K-12 map of Essential Questions in Civics and Government from the Center for Civic Education

http://www.civiced.org/stds_orgquestions_01.html

Understandings, Essential Questions and Assessment Ideas for grades 2-8, developed in Montgomery County, MD.

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/socialstd/curriculum/curriculum.html>

<http://mcps.k12.md.us/curriculum/socialstd/curriculum/nslg.html>

Click on grade levels (2-8) to view.

US History units developed in Montgomery County, MD.

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/socialstd/curriculum/ushist.html>

An US History course syllabus including essential questions and ideas for each unit in the course, developed through the Social Studies Help Center.

http://www.socialstudieshelp.com/Amer_History_Syallbus.htm

An US History course syllabus including essential questions, developed by William Penn High School.

<http://www.e2t2c2.net/penn/ushistory/default.htm>

Government units developed in Montgomery County, MD.

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/socialstd/curriculum/nslg.html>

Social studies curricula developed using UbD in Arlington County Schools, VA. Click on K-12 Curriculum and then grade levels to view Understandings, Essential Questions and unit plans.

<http://www2.apsva.us/1540108217813880/site/default.asp>

Social studies curricula developed using UbD in Alief ISD, TX. Click on Instruction, then Social Studies, then Curriculum Framework to view Understandings and Unit Questions (topical) by grade levels.

<http://www.aliefisd.net/>

Overarching (program-level) Essential Questions developed in Pomperaug Regional District, CT. Click on "Curriculum" link, then "Social Studies" then click on specific grade levels and courses. Also click THEMES to view.

<http://www.region15.org/curriculum/>

Essential Questions to link History and Literature at the secondary level, developed in Greece Schools, NY

<http://www.greece.k12.ny.us/instruction/ela/612/Essential%20Questions/culture.htm>

Curriculum maps (known as "pacing guides") contain Understandings and Essential Questions developed in Alief ISD, TX. Click on "Curriculum Framework", then "Pacing Guides", then click on grade levels/course titles to view.

http://www.aliefisd.net/group_profile_view.aspx?id=86619032-3924-434f-ae27-2da1d5c603a1

Draft curriculum maps in Economics and Personal Finance Courses (grades 9-12), developed in Monroe County. Click to view this work in process.

<http://www.monroe.k12.fl.us/Curriculum/SocialStudies/ssc04dmr/Grade Levels/economics/complete curriculum 05.htm>

Essential Questions and unit outlines in Economics, developed in Londonderry, CT. Click this link to download a PDF file.

www.londonderry.org/assets/documents/curriculum/lhs_econ.pdf

Curriculum maps in Economics include Essential Questions for various units, developed in Vermillion, SD. Click this link to download a WORD file.

<http://www.vermillion.k12.sd.us/Curriculum/maps/SocialStudies/CURRICULUM%20MAP%20economics.doc>

A wonderful site describing a U.S. History Course for “uncovering” (rather than simply covering) the content.

<http://www.journalofamericanhistory.org/textbooks/2006/calder/index.html>

***** **VISUAL and PERFORMING ARTS** *****

A collection of overarching (program level) big ideas, understandings and essential questions developed by the New Jersey DOE. Scroll down to page 1 to view.

<http://www.nj.gov/education/aps/njscp/Phase1allAreas.pdf#page=1>

A collection of overarching (program level) big ideas, understandings and essential questions developed by the Delaware DOE. Click on CLARIFICATION DOCUMENTS in the various arts areas to view.

http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/staff/ci/content_areas/vparts.shtml

***** **TECHNOLOGY** *****

A collection of overarching (program level) big ideas, understandings and essential questions developed by the New Jersey DOE. Scroll down to page 22 to view.

<http://www.nj.gov/education/aps/njscp/Phase1allAreas.pdf#page=22>

Technology Education

EUs and EQs

http://www.doe.k12.de.us/programs/ci/content_areas/files/tech/C-Big%20Idea,%20Overarching%20Enduring%20Understandings%20and%20Essential%20Questions.pdf

Science Atlas of Scientific Literacy (AAAS Project 2061)

While the focus of this website is primarily science, it includes a basic set of “big ideas” in technology, organized as K-12 concept maps. Click on THE NATURE OF TECHNOLOGY link to view.

<http://www.project2061.org/publications/atlas/sample/toc2.htm>

***** **WORLD/FOREIGN LANGUAGES** *****

A collection of overarching (program level) big ideas, understandings and essential questions developed by the New Jersey DOE. Scroll down to page 21 to view.

<http://www.nj.gov/education/aps/njscp/Phase1allAreas.pdf#page=21>

UbD units in World/Foreign Language developed in New Jersey

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/aps/cccs/wl/frameworks/wlo/>

http://www.doe.k12.de.us/programs/ci/content_areas/files/DE_WL_clarification.pdf

EQs in Foreign Language – South Carolina DOE

http://ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/cso/foreign_language/

UbD units in World/Foreign Language (New Jersey)

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/aps/cccs/wl/frameworks/wlo/>

A collection of UbD Units and Essential Questions for French, Spanish, Russian, Japanese, and Latin, developed in Glastonbury, MA.

<https://www.glastonburyus.org/curriculum/foreignlanguage/foreignlanguagecurriculum/essentialquestions/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://www.foreignlanguage.org/curriculum/index.htm#units>

OTHER

Service Learning

Good overview of service learning based on UbD developed by the Peace Corps.

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/wvs/educators/servicelearning/>

STAGE 2 – PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS and RUBRICS

Here is a collection of Stage 2 websites containing examples of performance assessments and rubrics. The list begins with general sites, followed by links in various subject areas.

GENERAL SITES containing ASSESSMENT TASKS and RUBRICS

A searchable database of assessment tasks in various subjects and grade levels developed in the State of Connecticut

<http://www.ctcurriculum.org/>

Click on STUDENTS ASSESSMENT TASKS, then enter your search criteria.

A searchable database of benchmarks, assessment ideas and rubrics in various subjects and grade levels developed in the State of Hawaii.

<http://standardstoolkit.k12.hi.us/index.html>

Examples of authentic projects with rubrics and student samples developed at High Tech High School in San Diego, CA

<http://www.hightechhigh.org/schools/HTH/>

Click on the links at the upper left top see more PROJECTS and DIGITAL PORTFOLIOS.

Examples of performance assessments, exhibitions, and portfolios developed through the Coalition of Essential Schools

http://www.ceschangeflab.org/cs/clpub/view/cl_cat/29

Rubrics – Quality rubrics developed through the New York State Performance Assessment Consortium

<http://performanceassessment.org/performance/prubrics.html>

- [Literary Analysis](#)
- [Mathematics](#)
- [Literacy Middle School](#)
- [Mathematics Middle School](#)
- [Extended Science Project or Original Experiment](#)
- [Social Studies Research Paper](#)

A collection of rubrics in various subject areas developed by:
– Quakertown, PA Schools

<http://www.qcsd.org/21307386221332/site/default.asp>

– University of Wisconsin School of Education

<http://www.uwstout.edu/soe/profdev/rubrics.sht>

– Winona State University

<http://www.winona.edu/AIR/rubrics.htm>

Rubrics based on Dimensions of Learning developed by McRel

<http://nanunet.lhric.org/Rubrics/McRel/rubrics.htm#Rubrics%20for%20Information%20Processing%20Standards>

Contains generic rubrics for “Complex Thinking”, “Information Processing”, “Communication”, “Collaboration” and “Habits of Mind”

Developmental rubrics for various subject areas, some include examples of students’ work for the various levels. Developed in the U.K. in conjunction with the British National Curriculum

<http://curriculum.qca.org.uk/key-stages-1-and-2/assessment/assessmentofsubjects/index.aspx>

Click on Subjects, then “About Attainment Targets,” then “Attainment Targets” to view the developmental rubrics

Rubistar – An on-line rubric generator with many sample rubrics available in various subject areas.

<http://rubistar.4teachers.org/index.php>

Teachnology – An on-line rubric generator with many sample rubrics available in various subject areas.

http://www.teach-nology.com/web_tools/rubrics/

Links to numerous websites containing rubrics, prepared by Kathy Schrock and Discovery Learning. Note: Not all weblinks are active.

<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/schrockguide/assess.html>

***** **ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS** *****

A collection of E/LA assessment task ideas developed in the State of Illinois.

<http://www.isbe.state.il.us/ils/ela/capd.htm>

A “map” of quarterly writing assessments with companion rubrics and annotated Exemplars for secondary level (Grades 6-12) developed in Greece Central Schools, NY

http://www.greece.k12.ny.us/devel/Dist_Indices/departments.htm

then, CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

then, ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

then, TOOLS FOR RDG, WRITING, THINKING

then, look for RUBRICS on left side of screen

then, click on the spinning trophy and make selections to see and annotated EXEMPLAR papers for the various assessments

Scroll down to view rubrics for Speaking, Debate, and Socratic Seminar developed in Greece Central Schools, NY

***** **HEALTH and PHYSICAL EDUCATION** *****

A collection of H/PE task ideas developed in the State of Illinois.

<http://www.isbe.state.il.us/ils/pdh/capd.htm>

A collection of rubrics for Health Education developed through the Rocky Mountain Center for Health Education

http://www.rmc.org/allguide/assessment/all_guide.php?feed=product&level=2

Scroll down to Strategy #1 Examples, then click to view the [elementary](#), [middle](#) and [high school](#) versions of the scoring rubrics.

***** **MATHEMATICS** *****

A collection of (mostly) “authentic” performance assessment tasks in mathematics, developed through the Saskatchewan, CN Ministry of Education. The assessment tasks include annotated examples of student responses illustrating different performance levels. Click on CHALLENGE ASSESSMENTS and STUDENT EXEMPLARS to download pdf files.

http://www.sasked.gov.sk.ca/branches/aar/afl/aims_resource.shtml

A collection of “authentic” performance assessment tasks in mathematics, are available through a paid subscription (school and district licenses). The assessment tasks include annotated examples of student responses illustrating different performance levels. Sample tasks are available on line.

<http://www.exemplars.com/>

A collections of mathematics tasks developed by The Mathematics Assessment Resource Service in the U.K.

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/education/MARS/tasks/>

The Balanced Assessment Project contains a library of over 300 mathematics assessment tasks and scoring guides for K-12. Although most are not framed as “authentic” problems, the website provides many useful and challenging assessment items.

<http://balancedassessment.concord.org/>

This is a five trait rubric for use with mathematics tasks. *Assesses Problem Solving, Reasoning & Proof, Communications, Connections and Representations.*

<http://www.exemplars.com/resources/rubrics/science.html>

***** **SCIENCE** *****

An excellent collection of performance assessment tasks in science for elementary, middle and high school levels

<http://pals.sri.com/>

A collection of science assessment task ideas developed in the State of Illinois.

<http://www.isbe.state.il.us/ils/science/capd.htm>

Science rubrics available from Exemplars.com

This is a general rubric for scientific investigations.

<http://www.exemplars.com/resources/rubrics/science.html>

This rubric rates proficiency in various scientific processes for elementary grades.

<http://www.exemplars.com/resources/rubrics/continuum.html>

Rubric Book in Science

Excellent resource of scoring tools for a wide range of products and performances found in effective science classrooms and programs K-12.

100 ready-to-use performance lists, holistic rubrics, and analytic rubrics

<http://www.corwinpress.com/booksProdDesc.nav?contribId=527664&prodId=Book225952>

***** **SOCIAL STUDIES** *****

Performance assessment tasks with accompanying rubrics in History, Geography, Civics and Economics for elementary, middle and high school levels developed in the State of Washington. Click on ASSESSMENT, then THE CBAs.

<http://www.k12.wa.us/SocialStudies/CBAs/default.aspx>

A collection of assessment task ideas for social studies developed in the State of Illinois.

http://www.isbe.state.il.us/ils/social_science/capd.htm

click on grade level sets to view and download the assessments
click on SOCIAL SCIENCE RUBRIC to view and download

A collection of assessment task ideas for GEOGRAPHY grades 5-8 developed in the State of Illinois.

<http://coe.ilstu.edu/iga/interact/assess/5-8.htm>

A holistic rubric for Document-Based Questions

<http://www.historyteacher.net/rubric.htm>

An analytic rubric for Document-Based Questions

<http://teacherweb.com/PA/DallasHighSchool/gilroy/DocumentBasedQuestionRubric.doc>

***** **VISUAL and PERFORMING ARTS** *****

A collection of assessment task ideas in the fine arts developed in the

State of Illinois.

http://www.isbe.state.il.us/ils/fine_arts/capd.htm

***** **WORLD/FOREIGN LANGUAGES** *****

A collection of performance tasks and rubrics for World Languages developed in the State of New Jersey

<http://flenj.org/CAPS/?page=149>

then, click on THEMATICALLY ORGANIZED ASSESSMENT TASKS RUBRICS – click on CAPS RUBRICS

A collection of assessment task ideas in foreign language developed in the State of Illinois

http://www.isbe.net/ils/foreign_languages/stage_J/assessment.htm

Fairfax County Public Schools, VA has developed a set of Foreign Language Rubrics for Writing and Speaking. The website includes a Conversion Chart for translating rubric scores into % grade equivalents.

<http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/OHSICS/forlang/PALS/rubrics/>

ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines – Developmental Rubrics

<http://www.sil.org/lingualinks/LANGUAGELEARNING/OtherResources/ACTFLProficiencyGuidelines/contents.htm>

The Common European Framework (CEF) offers a comprehensive framework for Language Learning with implications for instruction and assessment. Scroll through the PDF file to view the developmental levels (rubrics) in Section 3.

http://www.coe.int/T/DG4/Linguistic/Source/Framework_EN.pdf

Detailed self-assessment descriptors are available as a WORD file. Click “Self-assessment Descriptors” to download.

http://www.coe.int/T/DG4/Portfolio/?L=E&M=/documents_intro/Data_bank_descriptors.html

An on-line series of modules to guide teachers through the process of designing foreign language assessments.

<http://www.carla.umn.edu/assessment/VAC/>

