

Essential Questions in World Language

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Motivation/Goals/Benefits

- Why learn another language?
- What are my motivations to learn another language?
- What are my expectations about learning another language?
- Where does this language live in my community?
- How will learning a language enhance my life?
- How might learning a language open “doors of opportunity”?

Learning Process

- What language learning skills do I already have?
- What are “language patterns” and how can they help me learn and use a new language?
- How can I use my existing communication skills to learn a new language?
- What are different language learning styles?
- How do I determine the most effective language learning style for me?
- How do I best learn other skills?
- What strategies and resources will help me learn another language?
- What qualities do I need to learn a 2nd language?
- How can I sound more like a native speaker?
- How can one express complex ideas using simple terms?
- What do I hear when I listen?
- How do I figure out meaning when words are not understood?
- What do I do when I am stuck?
- What can I do to help me improve my fluency and accuracy?

Communication

- Why isn't a dictionary enough?
- Why don't you have to translate everything?
- How do native speakers differ from fluent foreigners?
- In what ways do languages convey meaning?
- How do people communicate without using language?
- What strategies can I use to communicate more effectively?
- How fluent do I need to be in speaking and/or writing a new language

in order to be able to communicate effectively?

- How does language change in different situations?
- Why don't you use the same words, expressions, etc. with everyone? ...
in every situation?
- What do I do when my ideas are more sophisticated than my ability to communicate them?
 - What can I do when I do not have the words to say what I am thinking?
 - How do I keep a conversation going?
 - How does body language complement the words? How and when might it compete with them?
 - What are the benefits of taking a chance in language? ...the risks?
 - What mistakes are worth making?
 - How is listening different from reading?
 - How is written language different from spoken language?
 - What do good speakers sound like?
 - How is spoken language different from written language?
 - How do good speakers express their thoughts and feelings?
 - What makes a speaker easy to follow?
 - How does *audience* and *purpose* (e.g., inform, entertain, persuade) influence a speaker's technique (e.g., volume, pacing, word choice, intonation)?
 - How can I help my audience understand me?
 - How can you "speak" without words?
 - What is "body language"?
 - How can I help my listener(s) better understand me?
 - How can you make your words more effective?

Culture and Language

- What is culture?
- Why study another culture?
- How does where I live shape who I am?
- How does your language "define" you?
- How are language and culture linked?
- What can I learn about my own language and culture from the study of others?
- How can I enhance my connections with people through language?
- How does the study of another language and culture make the world smaller?
- How can learning and using a language help me assimilate into a new culture?

- How can cultural awareness enhance my language learning and vice versa?
- How do I feel when someone from another culture speaks my language?
- How does language shape culture? How does culture shape language ?
- How can I explore other cultures without stereotyping ?
- What is it like to be a “foreigner”?
- How does the _____ (e.g., clothing, foods, arts, architecture, holidays, etc.) of a place reflect the culture?

Geography & History

- What makes places unique and different?
- How does a region’s geography, climate and natural resources affect the way people live and work?
- How does *where* I live influence *how* I live?
- Why do people move?
- What do we mean by “region”?
- What stories do maps and globes tell?
- How do maps and globes reflect history, politics, and economics?
- History: whose “story” is it?
- Who are the “winners” and “losers” when things change?

Enduring Understandings (*examples not yet categorized*)

You can learn a 2nd (or 3rd) language.

You already have language and communication skills that you can utilize while learning a new language.

The goal is effective communication, not word-for-word translation.

There are multiple ways to say the same thing.

Accuracy is the result of experience (deliberate speaking and listening) and self-reflection.

People have different styles of learning a language.

Learning a language is an on-going process.

Refinement comes from practice.

You can't identify and correct your mistakes unless you have the courage to make them.

A dictionary doesn't give you syntax.

The recognition and use of patterns of verb forms gives the speaker a wider range of communication skills.

Learning a second language will open doors for you professionally and personally.

Language connects people.

People appreciate your effort to learn and use their language.

“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, it goes to his heart.” —Nelson Mandela

Learning another language will open the door to a new culture. Language and culture are inextricably linked.

Communicating is more than using a new language.

Learning a language takes motivation, perseverance, and practice.

You are judged by what you say and how you say it.

Body language (can) change statements to questions, affirmations and Negations, and (can) impact the intensity of a statement.

Some words are more important than others.

Speaking is not the only form of communication.

Some gestures are culture-specific.

Conversations are more than questions and answers.

Language requires you to solve problems.

Structures and writing systems of the target language and English have similarities and differences.

Different linguistic structures communicate different meanings.

The language we use changes with the situation.