UbD-Related Websites

Compiled by Jay McTighe

I have compiled the following collection of websites in support of curriculum and assessment design using the Understanding by Design (UbD)® framework. Please e-mail me (**jaymctighe@verizon.net**) if you discover outdated links as well as other useful sites that you find so that I can add to this list.

Key: ****** Highly Recommended ***** Recommended

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GENERAL WEBSITES

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

** Massachusetts DOE
Through the Race to the Top Initiative, teams of educators from across the state used the UbD Framework to develop more than 100 pre-k to grade 12 model curriculum units in English language arts and literacy, history/social science, mathematics, the arts and science and technology/ engineering.
A free registration is required to access these materials at the following website:
http://www.doe.mass.edu/candi/model/download_form.aspx

* A series of classroom videos showing some of these units in use.
http://www.doe.mass.edu/candi/model/videos/MCUs.html

* New Jersey DOE – Use this link to download a pdf file containing a collection of overarching (program level) understandings and essential questions.
http://www.nj.gov/education/aps/njscp/Phase1allAreas.pdf

* Ohio DOE provides model curricula tied to the Common Core Standards in E/LA, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies, along with strategies for working with diverse learners. The E/LA curriculum models include Enduring Understandings; the Social Studies units contain Essential Questions; and the Mathematics units include Common Misconceptions. From "Topics", select subject area of interest.
http://www.education.ohio.gov/Topics/Ohios-Learning-Standards

* Engage New York offers a searchable database of curriculum and assessment resources aligned to the Common Core Standards for pre-K – 12 in E/LA and Mathematics.
https://www.engageny.org

New York City a searchable database of curriculum and assessment resources. Click on "filters" to search via grade levels and subjects.
https://www.weteachnyc.org/

Pennsylvania – The Pennsylvania Department of Education has established the Standards Aligned System (SAS) containing curriculum resources. 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) to view Big Ideas (understandings) and Essential Questions.
http://www.pdesas.org/module/sas/curriculumframework/

** Literacy Design Collaborative has developed sample curriculum based around performance tasks for E/LA, Social Studies, and Science.
http://ldc.org/sample-curricula

STAGE 1 – UNDERSTANDINGS and ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS
for Social Studies

** The Stanford History Education Group offers a set of curriculum units and related projects to engage students in historical inquiry. Lessons revolve around a central historical question and features sets of primary documents to involve students in "reading like a historian." **http://sheg.stanford.edu/?q=node/45**

* New York City a searchable database of curriculum and assessment resources. Click on "Social Studies" and then selected to view grade levels.
https://www.weteachnyc.org/

* The National Council for the Social Studies offers curriculum resources associated with their C3 Standards, including the C3 Inquiry Design Model.
www.C3teachers.org
http://www.c3teachers.org/inquiry-design-model/

Check out these two blogs presenting Essential Questions aligned to the C3 framework:
http://www.21socialstudies.com/blog/a-social-studies-instructional-framework-part-1-inquiry-questions-ubd-meets-c3

https://grantwiggins.wordpress.com/2014/12/08/questions-about-questions-ncss-and-ubd/

* Perspective for a Diverse America offers resources for "Teaching Tolerance."
http://perspectives.tolerance.org/

* The Document Based Questions Project is committed to helping teachers implement rigorous writing and thinking activities with students of all skill levels. The Project has materials in American and World History. All of the DBQs are written at two ability levels, thus making the sophisticated Document-Based Question exercise available to a wide range of classrooms and grade levels.
http://www.dbqproject.com/

* World Wise Schools (The Peace Corps) has developed curriculum materials based on UbD.
https://www.peacecorps.gov/educators/resources/

The Stanford History Education Group has produced nearly ninety U.S. and World History lessons involving primary source documents.
Reading Like A Historian
The Best Places To Find Free (And Good) Lesson Plans On The Internet

* AP World History Curriculum Framework
Provides the basis of the revised course. The framework is organized around key concepts and core themes, along with four Historical Thinking Skills. These are summarized in the Appendix, pp 7-15.
http://media.collegeboard.com/digitalServices/pdf/ap/ap-world-history-course-and-exam-description.pdf
Course resources include "big concepts" (understandings) and essential questions.
https://resourcesforhistoryteachers.wikispaces.com/AP+World+History

* A collection of overarching (program level) big ideas, understandings and essential questions organized by conceptual strands developed by the **New Jersey DOE**. Click this link to download a pdf file and scroll down to page 17 to view.

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

* The Literacy Design Collaborative offers sample social studies curricula built around performance task templates linked to the Common Core ELA Standards.
http://ldc.org/sample-curricula#Social Studies
http://www.ldc.org/sample-curricula/history-social-studies

* A collection of overarching (program level) Enduring Understandings and Essential Questions and model units developed by the **Delaware DOE**. Click on Clarification Documents by Strand and Grade Levels to view.

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

* Delaware DOE – Click on the various subject areas to see Essential Questions and model units based on UbD – Grades 4-5.
http://www.doe.k12.de.us/Page/2547

* Ten Overarching Essential Questions for American History, posted by **Dr. Elliott Seif**.
http://edge.ascd.org/blogpost/some-thoughtful-american-history-essential-questions

* Ohio DOE provides model curriculum units in Social Studies. The Social Studies units contain Essential Questions.
http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Ohios-Learning-Standards/Social-Studies

Rhode Island DOE has developed Grade Span Specific Documents that include essential questions for suggested topics and resources for lessons.

Also, a sample UbD unit on settlers is available by clicking on "DOC" at the bottom of the page.
http://www.ride.ri.gov/InstructionAssessment/CivicsSocialStudies.aspx

* World History for Us All offers overarching Essential Questions based around seven key themes for World History
http://worldhistoryforusall.sdsu.edu/shared/themes.php

Curriculum maps (known as "pacing guides") contain Understandings and Essential Questions developed in **Alief ISD**, TX. Click on grade levels/course titles to view.
http://www.aliefisd.net/site_res_view_template.aspx?id=22e94fd0-8d0f-4764-8982-2934e6f3e33a&userGroupId=86619032-3924-434f-ae27-2da1d5c603a1&userGroupType=G

** Essential Questions to link History and Literature at the secondary level, developed in **Greece Schools, NY**. Click on Themes and Essential Questions to view them.
 http://www.greece.k12.ny.us/academics.cfm?subpage=923

** A 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

A website site describing a U.S. History Course for "uncovering" (rather than simply covering) the content.
http://www.journalofamericanhistory.org/textbooks/2006/calder/index.html

STAGE 2 – PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS and RUBRICS

Here is a collection of websites containing resources for performance assessment tasks and rubrics. The list begins with general sites, followed by links in various subject areas.

I have worked with Defined Learning to develop:
1. Seven blogs on the design & use of Performance Tasks (right side of screen)
2. A set of on-line PD modules (left side of screen)
http://www.performancetask.com/

** **The Performance Assessment Resource Bank (SCALE)** is a recently posted online resource developed at Stanford University. The site offers a searchable database of curated performance assessments and associated resources that support their use by educators, schools, and systems and is designed as a platform to build a rapidly expanding collection of curated resources. This was a closed site but is now available nationally!
http://www.performanceassessmentresourcebank.org/

** **Colorado Professional Learning Network**
Offers an assessment resource bank that includes performance tasks in a searchable database. Search by subject, grade level, item type, and cost (many of the assessments are free).
http://www.coloradoplc.org/assessment/assessments

** **New York State Performance Standards Consortium** provides a collection of quality performance tasks and rubrics in various subject areas.
http://performanceassessment.org

**** Performance assessment tasks with accompanying rubrics in History, Geography, Civics and Economics for elementary, middle and high school levels developed by the **Washington DOE**. Click on The Assessments then the Level.
http://www.k12.wa.us/SocialStudies/Assessments/default.aspx

** **The NCSS Social Studies Performance-Based Assessment Clearinghouse** has been created to provide examples of social studies performance-based assessment measures conducted at local and state levels. Search on available tasks by grade and subject area.
http://www.socialstudies.org/resources/assessment

Social Studies Toolkit offers sample curriculum and instructional resources for social studies. The website includes inquiry units and videos.

https://www.engageny.org/resource/new-york-state-k-12-social-studies-resource-toolkit

** **The Stanford History Education Group** offers assessments that go beyond the multiple-choice format to assess historical thinking.
http://beyondthebubble.stanford.edu/

* **The Document Based Questions Project** is committed to helping teachers implement rigorous writing and thinking activities with students of all skill levels. The Project has materials in American and World History. All of the DBQs are written at two ability levels, thus making the sophisticated Document-Based Question exercise available to a wide range of classrooms and grade levels. Samples are available for free and additional materials may be purchased.
http://www.dbqproject.com/

* **Geography Tasks** – A collection of assessment task and scoring criteria developed by the **Illinois BOE**. Click on k-5 Elementary, 6-8 Middle and 9-12 High School to view the assessments.
http://my.ilstu.edu/~jabraun/socialstudies/assess/geo/assess/assintro.html

* **The Virginia State Superintendents Association (VASS)** provides a collection performance tasks and rubrics developed in Virginia school divisions.
http://vassonline.org/Page/291

** **UbD Units with Embedded Performance Tasks**
Supported through the Race to the Top Initiative, teams of educators from Massachusetts used the UbD Framework to develop more than 100 pre-k to grade 12 model curriculum units in English language arts and literacy, history/social science, mathematics, and science and technology/ engineering. A free registration is required to access these materials at the following website:
http://www.doe.mass.edu/candi/model/download_form.aspx

** **Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC)** – Funded by the Gates Foundation, the LDC has developed a set of task templates and instructional modules linked to the Common Core E/LA Standards. The templates support the integration of the E/LA Standards with content from Science, Social Studies and Technical subjects. Click on these links to learn more and view sample templates.
http://ldc.org/
http://ldc.org/sample-curricula
You will need to register (no cost) to access the resources at this LDC link.
https://coretools.ldc.org/#/home

** A collection of LDC tasks are available on the **PA Standards Aligned System (SAS)** website.
http://www.iu17-2.pdesas.org/module/content/search/#search

* New Zealand Assessment Resource Bank
Note: While it appears that you have to be New Zealand educator to access these website, but the search feature seems to work. Give it a try…
https://arbs.nzcer.org.nz/
http://www.tki.org.nz/r/assessment/exemplars/

** PBS Learning Media offers daily news articles with accompanying questions and lesson ideas for teachers to use with students. This is a useful resource for tasks involving research or issues analysis on current topics.
http://tinyurl.com/n7zmxr9

** Defined STEM has developed *100+* performance tasks/projects and associated rubrics based on various career areas. The tasks use the GRASPS format from UbD to establish an authentic scenario. A unique feature is the inclusion of a motivating video that shows "real world" applications of knowledge to set up the task.

In addition to the basic tasks, Defined STEM offers a set of electronic design tools allow teachers to customize the tasks and rubrics. While the title suggests that the tasks fall into the STEM arena, there are tasks in English/Language Arts and History/Social Studies as well.
This is a paid site. To view samples, go to: **http://www.definedstem.com**

** The Buck Institute offers a searchable database of projects for Project-based Learning.
http://www.bie.org/

* The Pennsylvania DOE offers a set of project-based assessments.
http://www.pdesas.org/Page?pageId=1

** A collection of quality performance tasks developed by the **Alberta Assessment Consortium, CN**. Browse by grade and subject. Some of the collection is in open space and some is member protected which will be evident from the sub-page menus.

http://www.aac.ab.ca/assessment-materials-2/

* Examples of authentic projects with rubrics and student samples developed at **High Tech High School** in San Diego, CA
http://www.hightechhigh.org/projects/

** TuVu Labs offers tools for engaging students to think critically about real data, ask meaningful questions, make evidence-based conclusions, and communicate their findings. Good resources for inquiry-based activites and lessons in Math, Science, and Social Studies aligned with the CCSS.
https://tuvalabs.com/

* **Galileo** offers resources for Inquiry and Project-Based Learning, including a Rubric for judging inquiry-based projects
http://galileo.org/
http://galileo.org/rubric.pdf

** **Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC)** – Funded by the Gates Foundation, the LDC has developed a set of task templates and instructional modules linked to the Common Core E/LA Standards. The templates support the integration of the E/LA Standards with content from Science, Social Studies and Technical subjects. Click on these links to learn more and view sample templates.
https://ldc.org/sample-curricula

* **Pennsylvania's Student Aligned System (SAS)** offers sample tasks for connecting the E/LA Standards (informational and explanatory writing; argumentative/persuasive writing) to Social Studies and Science using the Literacy Design Collaborative task frames.
http://www.pdesas.org/module/content/search/advanced.aspx#search

** **Global Challenges Project** – an excellent authentic project developed in West Windsor Plainsboro School District (NJ) bases on the United Nations twenty top global challenges.
http://markwise8.wix.com/globalchallenge

* A collection of well-developed rubrics for Document-Based Questions (DBQs), Writing, Speaking, Debate, and Socratic Seminar from **Greece Central Schools**, NY.
http://www.greece.k12.ny.us/academics.cfm?subpage=1369

A holistic rubric for Document-Based Questions
http://www.historyteacher.net/rubric.htm

A FEW OF JAY'S FAVORITE GENERAL RESOURCE WEBSITES

** **The Public Broadcasting System (PBS**) offers an excellent collection of resources for teachers, including many video clips from PBS programs. Search by subject, topic, and grade level. A free registration is required to access the resources.
http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/

** The U.S. Library of Congress offers many resources for teachers and their students.
https://www.loc.gov/?loclr=twloc

Lyrical Legacy offers a collection of 400 years of American song and poetry including tools for analyzing primary source documents and tools for analyzing songs and poetry. Free sign up.
http://www.loc.gov/teachers/lyrical/
http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/
http://www.loc.gov/teachers/lyrical/tools/

** Newsela provides a resource for helping students comprehend informational text. The free service offers daily news articles written at five levels of difficulty, suitable for students from upper elementary to high school. Newsela adapts to each student's reading ability to offer the right content while allowing re-leveling of articles with a single click. Articles are paired with quizzes aligned to the CCSS so teachers can track their students' progress on a daily basis.
http://newsela.com/

Newsela has assembled a set of articles around various issues. These can be used in conjunction with the LDC Task Templates to engage students in authentic reading, writing, listening and speaking.
http://www.pinterest.com/newsela

* Listen Current contains a collection of radio stories on a variety of topics. Excellent resource for developing listening skills.
http://www.simplek12.com/podcast/listen-current-podcasting/

* Listenwise offers resources to support active listening and research.
https://listenwise.com/

* American Rhetoric offers a comprehensive database of great speeches from national leaders, politicians, movies, etc. A great resource for developing listening and speaking skills.
http://www.americanrhetoric.com/

* STORY CORPS is a nonprofit oral history project collects thousands of one-on-one, intergenerational interviews. Schoolchildren using a StoryCorps smartphone app had uploaded thousands of recordings to a publicly accessible, Library of Congress archive. More information available at:
www.storycorps.org

* American Rhetoric offers a comprehensive database of great speeches from national leaders, politicians, movies, etc. A great collection of primary source material as well as a resource for developing listening and speaking skills.
http://www.americanrhetoric.com/

* **Interactive Constitution** provides a platform that connects students with scholars from across the legal and philosophical spectrum as they interact with each other to explore the meaning of each provision of the Constitution. A number of free resources is available
https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution

* **Edutopia** presents many CCSS resources on its website.
http://www.edutopia.org/common-core-state-standards-resources

Share My Lesson presents curricula, lesson plans, and weblinks aligned to the CCSS.
http://www.sharemylesson.com/article.aspx?storyCode=50000148

** **The Teaching Channel** offers a wide range of free videos providing lesson ideas and demonstrations of teaching practices for a variety of subjects and grades. Videos vary in length from five to thirty minutes.
https://www.teachingchannel.org/

* UK-based website with a large collection of resources for primary/elementary grades.
http://www.primaryresources.co.uk/

* **National Endowment for the Humanities** offers lesson plan libraries for Art, History & Social Studies, Language & Literature, and World Languages.
http://edsitement.neh.gov

Thinking Routines developed at Harvard University offer practical tools (e.g., graphic organizers and thinking protocols) for enhancing student thinking.
http://www.visiblethinkingpz.org/VisibleThinking_html_files/03_ThinkingRoutines/03a_ThinkingRoutines.html

Galileo offers resources for Inquiry and Project-Based Learning, including a Rubric for judging inquiry-based projects
http://galileo.org/
http://galileo.org/rubric.pdf