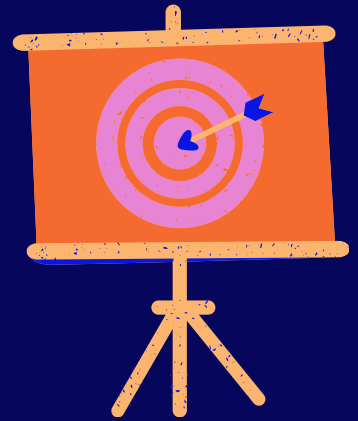## Integrated Learning Design Framework

A meta-framework for creating cross-curricular learning experiences

By Esmè van Deventer

Implementation Support

While this framework provides a roadmap for developing integrated learning experiences, many educators and institutions benefit from guided implementation support.

AZIMUTH offers specialized consulting and workshop services including:

1 **Professional Development Workshops –** Interactive sessions for teaching teams to master the framework and apply it to their specific contexts and curriculum requirements.

2 **Strategic Integration Planning** - Customized guidance for schools transitioning toward more integrated approaches, with implementation timelines and change management strategies.

3 **Curriculum Redesign Support –** Hands-on assistance developing integrated units that align with your educational standards while fostering deeper learning connections.

4 **Assessment Design –** Expert guidance creating authentic assessment tools that effectively capture cross-disciplinary understanding.

For more information about implementation support or to discuss your school's specific needs, please visit the Services page or contact us.

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Topic Selection and Main Concept

INSTRUCTIONS: Begin with a compelling central topic or big idea that has natural connections across disciplines.

Scaffolding questions:
- What topics naturally connect to multiple subject areas?
- Which themes are relevant to students' lives and experiences?
- What big ideas have sufficient depth for extended exploration?

Example Main Topic:
DIVERSITY

Key Concept Spider Web

INSTRUCTIONS: Brainstorm related concepts, themes, and big ideas that connect to your Main topic.

Scaffolding Questions:
- What big ideas naturally connect to this topic?
- What themes would engage students across multiple subject areas?
- Which concepts have depth and breadth for exploration?

EXAMPLE CONCEPTS FOR "DIVERSITY":
- Inclusivity
- Geographical Movement
- Change
- Culture
- Community

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Subject Integration Map

INSTRUCTIONS: Connect each concept to relevant subject areas, identifying natural bridges between disciplines.

INTEGRATION STRATEGIES:
- Look for natural overlaps between subject areas
- Consider how methods from one discipline can support learning in another
- Identify concepts that bridge multiple subjects authentically

EXAMPLE FOR THE CONCEPT "CHANGE":

Science:
- Chemical reactions
- Ecosystems
- States of matter

Mathematics:
- Rates of change
- Data analysis
- Patterns and functions

Social Studies:
- Historical shifts
- Migration patterns
- Cultural evolution

Learning Experience Design

INSTRUCTIONS: Design learning experiences that naturally bridge subjects and allow students to explore connections.

KEY QUESTIONS:
- ¨How could students explore both mathematical change and cultural change in one cohesive project?¨
- ¨What authentic tasks would allow students to apply knowledge across subject boundaries?¨

SAMPLE INTEGRATED ACTIVITY:
Students could create migration pattern visualizations that combine:

- Data analysis (Mathematics)
- Cultural impact research (Social Studies)
- Visual representation (Arts)
- Written analysis (Language Arts)
- The activity create

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Assessment Considerations

INSTRUCTIONS: assessment that captures learning across subject boundaries and values different types of understanding.

KEY QUESTIONS:
- "How will you assess the connections students make between subjects?"
- "What evidence will demonstrate deep understanding versus surface knowledge?"
- "How can assessment honor different learning styles and strengths?"

ASSESSMENT APPROACH:

- Use portfolios that demonstrate knowledge application across subjects
- Design rubrics that value both disciplinary knowledge and cross-curricular connections
- Incorporate student reflection on their integrated learning journey
- Allow multiple modes of demonstrating understanding

Related Content

This framework complements the article "AI Didn't Break Education: The Lost Art of Integrated Learning" which explores why integrated learning approaches are crucial for developing the skills students need for the future.
Join the conversation around integrated learning and education innovation:
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