How Does Population Education Fit Into PYP Curricula?

Population Education fits best into the Primary Years Programme (PYP) curriculum under the sub-context of “Sharing the Planet.” However, Population Education is interdisciplinary in nature and therefore can lend itself to being taught in all of the six PYP themes. The “Sharing the Planet” theme looks at human relationships with the environment and how we impact the natural world around us. The PYP curriculum places a strong emphasis on community and inquiry in order to lay a strong foundation for global citizenry.

In the PYP program, students engage with complex themes like:

- Inquiry into the rights and responsibilities of human interaction with the natural world.
- Human interconnectedness and decision-making.
- Physical and biological interaction between humans and the natural world.
- Our rights and responsibilities as global citizens.

What Concepts Related to Population Education Align with PYP Learning Goals?

The purpose of the IB program is to develop and graduate globally conscious and competitive students. Population and environmental issues cross-cut a variety of subjects and can be used as a unifying theme across contents. Concepts such as resource scarcity, carrying capacity, population growth trends, and human ecology are all applicable to a variety of subjects including science, math, English language arts, and humanities. Additionally, Population Education fits perfectly into the PYP curriculum goal of international mindedness because the collective actions we make as a human population have global implications for our generation and generations to come.

What Resources Are Available to Help Integrate Population Education into the PYP Curricula?

Population Education offers a variety of classroom resources, hands-on lesson plans, and professional development opportunities to help teachers facilitate effective and engaging lessons. In each lesson, students use real-world data or scenarios to apply concepts of math, science, social studies and English to contemporary environmental challenges. Sample lesson concepts include: carrying capacity, natural resource extraction, environmental health and quality, resource scarcity, and population growth trends. Lesson plans and resources are available on the Population Education website and through professional development opportunities offered nationwide each year.