

PLC Pathway: Session 1

Survey the Curriculum



Goal for this session: The new vision of science education focuses on deep understanding of a limited number of disciplinary core science ideas (DCIs). In this session, you look at your curriculum through the lens of a DCI. You'll identify sequences of curriculum learning experiences that build toward the overarching learning goal.

Study Guide

An online version of this study guide with links is available at <http://inquiryngss.terc.edu/>

Prepare – To prepare to analyze your curriculum, review an [Example Survey the Curriculum Planning Tool](#) for the 5th grade curriculum *Investigating Water Transformations*.

- a. The first step is to use the NGSS to identify the Disciplinary Core Idea (DCI) that is the focus of the curriculum. This curriculum focuses on **Matter and Its Interactions**.
- b. Notice the overarching learning goal (“big idea”) that was identified for *Investigating Water Transformations*. This is the chunk of the DCI that the curriculum addresses.
- c. On the [Example Planning Tool](#), the learning experiences and understanding goals that build toward the big idea are listed for each section of the curriculum. Any activities and understanding goals that do not build toward the overarching learning goal are omitted.

Use the Planning Tool

1. Find the standards for the DCI that your curriculum addresses. (See the [NGSS](#).) You'll find components of the DCI listed under the performance expectations. (You can find descriptions of how each DCI develops from K-12 in the [Framework](#).)
2. Use the curriculum's front matter and lesson headings and introductions to identify the overarching goal and sequence of learning goals and activities.
3. Complete the [Survey the Curriculum Planning Tool](#).

Discuss in Your PLC

With your colleagues, share your filled out *Survey the Curriculum Planning Tool*. Grapple with questions. Provide feedback and support.