

What's the Big Idea?

Essential Questions from Science School Educators

Big Ideas from Previous Years:

What is legacy?

How change impacts our mind and world?

What is our place?

What will the future bring?

How does innovation impact our lives?

What footprint will we make?

What do you do with a problem?

What is involved in building a civilization?

How can we learn from the past in order to sustain the future?

How does play connect us?

What is change?

What sparks our curiosity?

Key Words/Ideas:

-innovation

- energy/sustainability

- Circles/Cycles/Connections/community

- change

- play

- solving problems

- future

- legacy

- curiosity

- story

- exploration

Big Ideas from Previous Years:

How do we belong?

What do we cultivate? (plants, ecosystems, innovation, character)

What is your impact in the world?

How do we live a more sustainable life?

Who am I? (Mon identite)

How am I a maker?

What kinds of change do you want to see in the world?

What do you do with a problem?

What if?

What matters?

How do machines/technology affect us?

How can your relationships with the Natural World Guide our Choices for the Future?

How do I make an impact? How do we make a difference in the world around us?
How can we ensure access to healthy food?
Why Explore? Explore Creativity and Experience Wonder.
Spark a Legacy: What experiences do we leave behind?
How will you leave your mark on the world?
How can we impact our community?
Where will this journey take me?
The Art of Engineering
How can innovation change the world?

Tips for developing Big Ideas/Essential Questions: (involve students in the process)

- Brainstorm Key Concepts/Ideas to generate a list of meaningful words
- Define/explain any words as needed
- Play around with forming questions from the words (example below)

Example:

Start with the word “Power”

Who decides power?

What is power?

I am powerful... or We are powerful...

How do we understand power?

(A lot of connections are possible here: Power (connection to electricity/energy) Power (connection to government/citizenship/community) Power (connection to our own personal power/passion)

Once you have a question – brainstorm ways that this essential question could be “lived” in the classroom? School? Community? Telus Spark? (do this with students to get their voice) (a giant mind map on the board/wall may be a great visual way to brainstorm)

