**Psychology**

**Unit 1: Psychology & Learning**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Essential Questions*** What is Psychology?
* Why do people behave the way they do?
* How do we learn new behaviors?
* Are people more inclined to behave in certain ways because of their nature or because of their interactions with others?
* In what ways do people’s emotions and desires show themselves?
 | **Key Ideas*** Psychology is a diverse subject that has many uses and included many professions.
* There are various approaches to the study of psychology.
* Psychologists use varied experimental procedures to avoid bias and draw valid research conclusions.
* Classical conditioning, operant, conditioning, and social learning are varied theories used to explain learning.
* Memory and information processing are complex and multi-faceted procedures.
* Language as we know it consists of many elements.
* Emotion and motivation are associated with many physiological and psychological factors.
 |
| **Key Social Studies Practices*** Describe, analyze, and evaluate arguments of others.
* Make inferences and draw conclusions from evidence.
* Deconstruct and construct plausible and persuasive arguments using evidence.
 | **Suggested Products & Activities*** Conduct a brief study within the school using a survey, correlational research, or naturalistic observation.
* Collect and analyze samples of statistical and experimental research from current news media.
* Engage in a short research project about a notable figure in Psychology.
 |

**Psychology**

**Unit 2: Workings and Development of Mind and Body**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Essential Questions*** How does the human body process stimuli into perceptions?
* What role does the human mind play in perception?
* How do humans’ bodies and minds change over time?
 | **Key Ideas*** The human brain consists of many complex structures that work both independently and in conjunction with each other for varied purposes.
* Psychological stress is caused by a variety of factors.
* Biofeedback and meditation are some examples of the mind-body relationship.
* Perception involves both the physiology of the body as well as the state of a person’s mind.
* Humans travel through many stages in their physical and perceptual development.
* Families and peer groups play important and diverse roles during adolescence.
* During old age, changes occur to both body and mind.
 |
| **Key Social Studies Practices*** Identify, analyze, and evaluate the relationship between multiple causes and effects.
* Identify, analyze, and evaluate the relationship between the physical environment and human activities.
 | **Suggested Products & Activities*** Create visual representations of the different theories of physical, perceptual, and ethical human development.
* Students keep a diary documenting the effect of biofeedback techniques on stress levels.
 |

**Psychology**

**Unit 3: Personality & Mental Health**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Essential Questions*** What measures are used to assess human behavior and capacity, and in what ways are they used?
* Is there really such a thing as a “personality type”?
* What makes something “abnormal”?
* How do people deal with psychological illness and mental health issues?
 | **Key Ideas*** Psychological testing is used to assess diverse human factors and capacities including intelligence, personality, and cognitive disabilities.
* Personality psychology is a branch of psychology that studies human nature and individuality.
* Multiple competing schools of personality exist to explain and investigate human nature and individuality.
* Psychological disorders are patterns of behavioral symptoms that impact the way people live.
* People attempt to deal with psychological illness and mental health issues in a variety of different ways.
 |
| **Key Social Studies Practices*** Participate in activities that focus on community, state, or national issues or problems.
* Identify situations in which social actions are required and determine an appropriate course of action.
* Recognize and interpret the relationships among patterns and processes.
 | **Suggested Products & Activities*** Create infographics depicting the prevalence of psychological disorders in US and world populations.
* Research the validity of varied assessment measures (SAT, IQ tests, etc.).
 |