**Psychology**

**Unit 1: Psychology & Learning**

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| **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. |

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

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| **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. |

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**Unit 3: Personality & Mental Health**

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| **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.). |