

**Middle School Integrated Curriculum Overview
2009-2010 Theme: ORIGINS
Essential questions**

	1st Trimester	2nd Trimester	3rd Trimester
Key Concepts and Principles	Origins of Tacoma History of the region's development	Origins of Government Civics Transportation	Origins of Commerce Economy of the region Trade Transportation
Projects/ Experiences	Beginning of the Year Trip to Mt. Rainier Nations Park and the Nisqually Glacier Work with a hydrologist to measure the river's turbidity, rate of flow, water volume, flood potential Landscape painting classes in the National Park Float parts of the river Washington State history Museum - learn about the Puyallup River basin's history	Tour the state capitol, meet with representatives Attend Tacoma City Council meetings, work with a representative to identify an issue facing youth in Tacoma and work to assist in developing and implementing solutions Work with city engineers to examine the structural engineering of the bridges in Tacoma. Design and build a model bridge that will support a specified weight Work with an architect to tour the architectural history of Tacoma. Build a replica of one building Develop a long term relationship with elderly residents at Tobey Jones; conduct oral histories	Work with the Port Commissioner to understand the role of commerce in Tacoma's past and present. Work with the Foss Waterway organization to understand their mission and role in the economic development of Tacoma Work with scientists to understand the environmental impact of businesses around the Puyallup River and Tide Flats Continue to work with residents at the Toby Jones retirement center Visit a variety of farms in the Puyallup River basin to understand the economics of farming
Social Studies Content	Role of the Puyallup River in the development of the region First peoples of the Puyallup River region Early immigrants to the Puyallup River basin Geography of the region	Different forms of government & their origins Origins of American democracy Tacoma governance & City Council Role of transportation in the development of the region	Economics of the region & the important role of transportation Port of Tacoma (role of the Port in Tacoma's economy, exports, imports, manufacturing) Foss Waterway (history and development)
Science Content	Earth Science (volcanoes, erosion, river systems, ecology, soil) Plant science First Lego	Physics/Structural Engineering Bridges (construction & building of bridges) Architecture (design & construction) Agriculture (crop science, crops of the region, maximizing plant growth)	Environmental science with a focus on chemistry Energy sources Agriculture (service learning, indoor grow lab)
Language Arts Connections	Historical fiction and non-fiction Research skills and writing Expository writing Daily writing	Oral histories Biographies Debate Creative Writing Daily writing	Research writing Speech writing & presentation Fiction Daily Writing
Math Connections	Measurement (rate, flow, cartography) Estimation Volume (water, measuring, calculating rate differences)	Principles of physics Principles of structural engineering Measurement and scale	Trade economics Budgeting
Art Connections	Landscape painting	Performance Arts Technical drawing	Visual Arts
Materials/ Resources	Under development	Under development	Under development
All School Projects	Under development	Under development	Under development

2010-2011 Focus: **World Cultures & History**

2011-2012 Focus: **US & WA. State History**

Other facets of the curriculum:
Service Learning
Life Skills
Technology
PE
Foreign Language
Study Skills
Grammar and Vocab