The Action Cycle (Choose, Act, Reflect) is an important part of our IB education. Please note any actions that you have noticed at home as a result of this unit and return this page to me at any time. Questions and comments are welcomed as well.

We are always looking for resources to enhance our Unit of Inquiry. If you have something to share, or know someone who can offer information, please let us know!

Principal
Kirk Morris

Benjamin E. Mays IB World School
Sharing the Planet

5th Grade

560 Concordia | St. Paul, MN 55103
651.325.2400 | spps.org/mays
Sharing the Planet: an inquiry into rights and responsibilities in the struggle to share finite resources with other people and living things.

During our current IB unit, students will look at such questions as: What is an ecosystem? Where are ecosystems found? What affects ecosystems? And, what impact do humans have on different ecosystems? These questions will drive our inquiry into Sharing the Planet.

Our students will explore and research ecosystems through literature, maps, the internet, and documentaries. We look forward to studying the characteristics of a good documentary as we view BBC Planet Earth episodes.

Because this is our Exhibition unit, students will work in small groups with a mentor to make in-depth projects that have written, visual, verbal, technological, and action components. These projects will be the basis for the assessment for the unit and will be shared with our community during 5th Grade Exhibition this spring.

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Central Idea
Biodiversity relies on maintaining the interdependent balance of organisms within systems.

Lines of Inquiry
- Interdependence within ecosystems, biomes and environments
- ways in which organisms are connected in nature
- how human interaction with the environment can affect the balance of systems

Transdisciplinary Skills
Research: Use graphic organizer with 8 key concepts to facilitate thorough research
Thinking: While researching with graphic organizer, students will demonstrate thinking through comprehension of material and by the ability to put the information into their own words. They will synthesize the main ideas/concepts.

Key Concepts
Function, Change, Responsibility

Learner Profile
Communicators, Knowledgeable, Reflective

Attitudes
Curiosity, Empathy, Collaboration