

Potential Themes

Aspects	Environments	Potential
Balance	Exploration	Power
Challenge	Extinction	Progress
Change	Force	Relationships
Choice	Freedom	Risk
Co-existence	Frontiers	Stages
Competition	Growth	Structures
Communication	Harmony	Survival
Conflict	Influence	Symbols
Connections	Interaction	Systems
Cooperation	Interdependence	Tradition
Courage	Justice	Transitions
Creativity	Movement	Understanding
Culture	Odyssey	Universality
Cycles	Observations	
Design	Order	
Development	Organization	
Discovery	Paradigms	
Diversity	Patterns	

Themes and Generalizations

For a theme to be effective, it is essential to select generalizations or "big ideas" that can be verified and/or disputed in the course of study. The following are possible generalizations for some of the previous listed themes.

CHALLENGE

- creates conflict
- demands accountability
- requires full use of abilities, energies, and resources
- demands action

CHANGE

- generates additional change
- can be either good or bad
- is interdependent
- is necessary for growth
- is inevitable

CHOICE

- has consequences
- leads to change or maintains the status quo

CONFLICT

- is composed of opposing forces
- may be natural or man-made
- may be intentional or unintentional
- may allow for syntheses and change

CREATIVITY

- may or may not provide solutions
- opens the mind
- promotes tolerance or appreciation
- enhances growth and knowledge

CULTURE

- is universal
- takes many forms
- defines individuals and societies
- may be influenced by other cultures
- is interdependent with technology

DIVERSITY

- can unify or divide
- helps us grow/change
- is everywhere

EXPLORATION

- requires taking risks
- confronts the "unknown"
- opens horizons
- requires leadership

FORCE

- attracts, holds, or repels
- influences or changes
- is co-dependent with inertia
- may be countered with equal or greater force

FRONTIERS

- are endless
- open possibilities
- may or may not be conquered

INFLUENCE

- equals power
- may be subtle or overt
- is dependent on perspectives

ODYSSEY

- expands existing knowledge
- requires planning and preparation
- requires leadership
- may be internal as well as external

ORDER

- may be natural or constructed
- may allow for prediction
- may communicate concepts
- may have repeated patterns
- may have elements of chaos

PATTERNS

- have segments that are repeated
- allow for prediction
- may have symmetry
- have an internal order

POTENTIAL

- serves as a catalyst
- may be ignored or hidden
- has power
- needs cultivation

POWER

- influences
- may be used or abused
- takes many forms
- is used to facilitate, dominate, or maintain the status quo

STRUCTURES

- have parts that interrelate
- have parts that support and are supported by other parts
- may combine to form other structures

SYSTEMS

- work to complete a task or mission
- are composed of subsystems and parts
- have parts that are interdependent upon one another and form symbiotic relationships
- may be influenced by other systems

TRANSITIONS

- ease change
- bridge gaps
- expand ideas
- allow for interaction/exchange

UNIVERSALITY

- spans time and place
- is everywhere
- focuses on commonalities