

Thematic Unit Template

MJK Educators | Lesson Plans for every curriculum

One theme. Every subject. Your family's learning rhythm.

A thematic unit takes one big idea and explores it across multiple subjects over 2–6 weeks. Instead of teaching maths, science and literacy as separate silos, you weave them together around a theme your child cares about. This template works with CBC, IGCSE, IB, the American system and faith-based approaches. Use it for one child or many.

How to use it: Print this template, or copy it into Google Docs, Notion or a notebook. Fill in what serves you and skip what doesn't. Three worked samples at the end show how the template works.

1. Theme and Big Idea

Field	Your notes
Unit title	
Big idea / essential question	
Why this theme? (learner interest, family values, season, faith connection)	
Duration	
Learner(s)	
Curriculum	☐ CBC ☐ IGCSE ☐ IB ☐ American ☐ Faith-based ☐ Interest-led

2. Learning Goals

By the end of this unit, the learner will:

KNOW (knowledge)
UNDERSTAND (big ideas)
BE ABLE TO DO (skills)
BECOME (dispositions / values)

Curriculum links	Notes
CBC learning area(s)	
IGCSE / IB subject(s)	
Faith-based connection	
Others	

3. Subject Mapping

How does each subject connect to the theme?

Subject	Connection to theme	Activity idea	Standards / link
Literacy / English			
Mathematics			
Science			
Social studies			
Kiswahili			
Creative arts			
PE / health			
Faith / values			
Other:			

4. Weekly Plan

Week 1. Focus: Key activities and resources needed
Week 2. Focus: Key activities and resources needed
Week 3. Focus: Key activities and resources needed

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Week 4. Focus: Key activities and resources needed

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Add more weeks as needed.

5. Resources

Books and texts

Videos, podcasts and online

Household and hands-on materials

Community and field trips

Guest experts / interviews

6. Assessment and Evidence

Culminating project / performance task

How will we show learning?

- ☐ Written report ☐ Oral presentation ☐ Model / artefact ☐ Portfolio entry
☐ Video / audio recording ☐ Exhibition / display ☐ Experiment ☐ Performance ☐ Other: _____

Assessment tools used

- ☐ Observation notes ☐ Rubric ☐ Exit tickets ☐ Self-assessment
☐ Work samples ☐ Peer / family feedback

Portfolio evidence checklist

- ☐ Written work (dated) ☐ Photos of projects ☐ Learner self-reflections
☐ Parent observation notes ☐ Teacher observation notes
☐ Assessment records ☐ Evidence of competency achievement

7. Reflection and Record

Teacher's reflection

What worked well?

What would I change next time?

What surprised me about the learner's mastery, understanding and application of knowledge?

Learner's own reflection:

Skills that emerged that I didn't plan for:

Unit dates: _____ to _____ Total learning hours: _____

Subjects covered: _____ Portfolio filed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Parent signature: _____ Learner signature: _____

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How the Thematic Unit Template Works

Three worked samples for different ages and approaches. Adapt the activities to your own learners, resources and local area.

Sample 1: “Water in Our World”

Ages 6–10 · CBC Primary · 4 weeks

Big idea: Water connects every part of life, from our bodies to our farms to our weather.

Subject	Activity
Literacy	Write a poem about rain
Kiswahili	Label water sources in Kiswahili
Maths	Measure daily water use; graph it
Science	Water cycle experiment in a jar
Social studies	Map local water sources
Creative arts	Watercolour the water cycle
PE	Practise water safety rules
Agriculture	Water a garden; observe growth
Values	Discuss caring for water

Culminating project: Family water audit and presentation

Field trip: Local river, dam or water treatment plant

Sample 2: “Migration and Belonging”

Ages 12–16 · IGCSE / IB · 6 weeks

Big idea: Why do people move, and what does it mean to belong somewhere?

Subject	Activity
English	Read and analyse a migrant narrative
Maths	Analyse migration data and graphs
Biology	Compare human and animal migration
History	Research internal migration in Kenya
Geography	Map migration routes and push / pull factors
Economics	Calculate remittance impact
Language	Interview a migrant (oral history)
Art	“Home” collage: a visual representation of belonging
Faith / values	Discuss hospitality and welcoming the stranger

Culminating project: Oral history interview and reflective essay

Field trip: Cultural centre, migrant community organisation

Sample 3: “God's Design in Nature”

Ages 5–9 • Faith-based • 3 weeks

Big idea: Creation reveals order, beauty and purpose, and we are called to care for it.

Subject	Activity
Bible	Read Genesis 1–2; narrate
Science	Sort leaves, insects, rocks
Maths	Find symmetry and patterns in nature
Literacy	Nature journaling (daily observations)
Art	Watercolour a flower or bird
Music	Learn “All Things Bright and Beautiful”
PE	Nature walk and scavenger hunt
Service	Plant a tree; clean a local area
Character	Memorise Psalm 24:1

Culminating project: Nature journal and tree planting ceremony

Field trip: Nature trail, national park or local botanical garden

Supervise outdoor activities and field trips, and assess risks first. Curriculum links are guides, not official alignments.