

INTRODUCING THE SDGS DURING MIDDLE SCHOOL ORIENTATION



Submitted by Brycen Davis, Middle School Tech & Innovation Coach / MYP Design Teacher & Curriculum Leader at UNIS Hanoi

LEARNING PLAN OVERVIEW

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Subject(s) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Citizenship Education • Sustainable Development Project |
| Grade Level (s) | Middle School (ages 12- 13) |
| Systems Tool(s) | Systems Iceberg |
| Purpose of Using Tool | Inquiry |
| Summary | Engage students in what the SDGs are, why they came to be, and how they can positively contribute to them. |

Learning Objectives

1. Getting to know your cohort of new students
2. What makes your new school unique?
3. What are the SDGs and how do they impact the culture at UNIS Hanoi?
4. Discuss the Systems Iceberg and how we educate agents of change.

Material and Settings

[Google Site with lesson plan materials](#)

Learning Context

Odyssey is an orientation course run over 18 hours to ease new students from grades 6 - 8 into their new school environment and culture. In Quarter 1, I had 60+ new students in the same room and in Quarter 3 I only have 7. This lower number allowed me to have small group conversations about these topics and more effectively convey the culture of the SDGs.

Purpose of Using the Systems Thinking Tools

I chose the Systems Iceberg since it speaks to how culture can shift based on deep-rooted mental models that the SDGs have instilled at our school.

Learning Plan Step-by-step Description

This lesson plan is all on the [website here](#).

Get to know your cohort of Phoenixes

- Break out into groups of 2-3.
- Find out the names of everyone in your group.
- Find 1 similarity in your whole group (i.e., Who wears glasses? Who is wearing blue).
- Now find the group next to you and introduce your group and similarity.
- Discuss what some of the similarities were amongst the whole class.

What makes UNIS UNique?

You have chosen to study at UNIS Hanoi. So, what makes our school UNique to other international schools?

You guessed it! The UN (United Nations). We are 1 of only 2 UN International Schools in the world.

- UNIS New York, USA
- UNIS Hanoi, Vietnam

So what does it mean to be associated with the United Nations? To find out more, let's explore a bit about what the UN is, what it stands for, and how we strive to embed those values in our school.

Go through several videos (embedded on the [website](#)) and discuss what the Vision and Mission statement of the school means.

"Sustainable Impact"

At our school...we don't just want to teach you about things...we want to teach you how to change things for the better. To do this, we embed the UN Sustainable Development Goals into many areas of our curriculum and culture.

So...what exactly are the SDGs? How does our connection to them change the culture of UNIS Hanoi?

1. Learn about the SDGs through the link and the video
2. Review the slide deck on 'educating agents of change'
3. Systems Iceberg Activity on how the SDGs exemplify systems thinking
4. Read the infographic on UNIS Hanoi Strategy

Questions to consider...

- What does it mean to be a UN school?
- What are you most passionate about when you read the goals?

- What is something new that you learned about today?
- How might you be an agent of change?

REFLECTION

Plusses

The students really liked the videos about the UN and the SDGs...I think they felt a bit proud to be going to the school after watching them.

They were engaged in discussing the Systems Iceberg and how the SDG indicators were well thought out.

Areas for Improvement

The timing was tight...we didn't have as much time as I would have liked to discuss the SDGs and their indicators, but I still think they left with way more understanding of how problems are looked at through the Systems Iceberg model.

EVIDENCE

