

The Key Principles of *Oxford Discover*

I. Inquiry-based Learning

Inquiry-based learning maximizes student involvement, encourages collaboration and teamwork, and promotes creative thinking. These guidelines will help you create the most effective classroom environment for *Oxford Discover*.

1. Facilitate student-centered learning

Student-centered learning gives students an active role in class. The teacher acts as facilitator, guiding the learning and ensuring that everyone has a voice. Students work to achieve the goals they have set for the lessons. As a result, student participation and dialogue are maximized.

2. Wonder out loud

Curious students are inquirers, ready to look beyond the information on a page. As new ideas, stories, or topics are encountered, encourage students to wonder:

I wonder why / how ... I wonder what happens when / if ...

3. Let student inquiry lead the lesson

When students are presented with a topic, invite them to ask their own questions about it. In doing so, they are more motivated to seek answers to those questions. In addition, as students find answers, they take on the added role of teacher to inform others in the class.

4. Take time to reflect

Every *Oxford Discover* lesson should begin and end with student reflection. The lesson can begin with the question *What have we learned up to now?* and end with *What have we learned today?* The answers are not limited to content, but can also explore methods, strategies, and processes. As students become more aware of how they learn, they become more confident and efficient in their learning.

5. Make connections

Deep learning occurs when students can connect new knowledge with prior knowledge and personal experiences. Give your students opportunities to make connections.

6. Cooperate instead of compete

Competitive activities may create temporary motivation, but often leave some students feeling less confident and valued. By contrast, cooperative activities build teamwork and class unity while boosting communication skills. Confident students serve as a support to those who need extra help. All students learn the value of working together. Cooperative activities provide win-win opportunities for the entire class.

II. 21st Century Skills

We live in an age of rapid change. Advances in communication and information technology continue to create new opportunities and challenges for the future. As our world becomes increasingly interconnected, today's young students must develop strong skills in critical thinking, global communication, collaboration, and creativity. In addition, students must develop life and career skills, information and technology skills, as well as an appreciation and concern for our planet and cross-cultural understanding. *Oxford Discover* helps students build these skills in order to succeed in the 21st century.

1. Critical Thinking

Students in the 21st century need to do more than acquire information. They need to be able to make sense of the information by thinking about it critically. Critical thinking skills help students to determine facts, prioritize information, understand relationships, solve problems, and more.

Oxford Discover encourages students to think deeply and assess information comprehensively.

2. Communication

Oxford Discover offers students plentiful opportunities to become effective listeners, speakers, readers, and writers. Every unit has two pages devoted to communication, but these skills are also utilized throughout. In addition, digital resources such as Online Practice promote online communication and computer literacy, preparing students for the demands of the new information age.

3. Collaboration

Collaboration requires direct communication between students, which strengthens listening and speaking skills. Students who work together well not only achieve better results, but also gain a sense of team spirit and pride in the process. *Oxford Discover* offers opportunities for collaboration in every lesson.

4. Creativity

Creativity is an essential 21st Century Skill. Students who are able to exercise their creativity are better at making changes, solving new problems, expressing themselves, and more. *Oxford Discover* encourages creativity throughout each unit by allowing students the freedom to offer ideas and express themselves without judgment.

III. Language and Literacy Skills

1. Vocabulary

Students need to encounter new words in different contexts a number of times, before they can recognize the words and produce them. This is why words are presented and practiced with a focus on meaning before they are highlighted in the reading texts. Vocabulary is then rigorously recycled throughout the entire series, so that students can feel confident when meeting those words again in different situations.

2. Grammar

The grammar in *Oxford Discover* comes from the texts in each unit. By providing grammar in context, students are exposed to meaning as well as form. *Oxford Discover* integrates structural input into a meaningful syllabus, utilizing familiar vocabulary and situations. More explicit grammar practice is provided in the Workbook to help students apply it in more contexts and to internalize the rules and forms.

3. Literacy

Oxford Discover teaches essential literacy skills through the introduction of reading and writing strategies in each unit. These practical strategies encourage students to read critically and efficiently through a broad range of fiction and nonfiction text types and genres.