LMS ELA 8 Unit 1

Content Area: **ELA**
Course(s):
Time Period: **MP1**
Length:
Status: **Published**

Rationale

Unit 1 is intentionally positioned as an informational-reading unit at the start of Grade 8. District curriculum-revision guidance calls for beginning with informational text based on prior-year data and for students to complete two full informational units before the NJSLA assessment. The theme Human Impact and Environmental Change provides a coherent context for this work while also ensuring that climate change is addressed within the curriculum.

Across the unit, students use the five informational anchor texts to strengthen evidence-based reading, central idea and objective summary, text structure, author perspective and purpose, synthesis across sources, and analysis of conflicting viewpoints. These reading skills support the informative/explanatory research-simulation writing focus, in which students gather, paraphrase, organize, and explain evidence from multiple sources. The unit also integrates morphology, academic vocabulary, discussion, media analysis, and presentation so students repeatedly apply literacy skills across reading, writing, language, speaking, and listening.

Enduring Understandings

1. Human activity can alter ecosystems in significant ways, and individual and collective choices can contribute to environmental problems or possible responses.

2. Authors use central ideas, supporting details, text structures, and connections among ideas to organize and develop complex information.

3. An author's perspective, purpose, structural choices, and language influence how information is presented; strong readers examine evidence and competing viewpoints rather than simply accepting a presentation.

4. Combining, comparing, and synthesizing information across texts and media can produce a deeper understanding of complex environmental issues.

5. Effective informative/explanatory writing selects, organizes, and analyzes relevant information, integrates evidence, and uses clear elaboration and transitions to develop ideas.

6. Morphological knowledge, precise vocabulary, purposeful sentence structures, active listening, and effective speaking choices help people determine meaning and communicate complex ideas clearly.