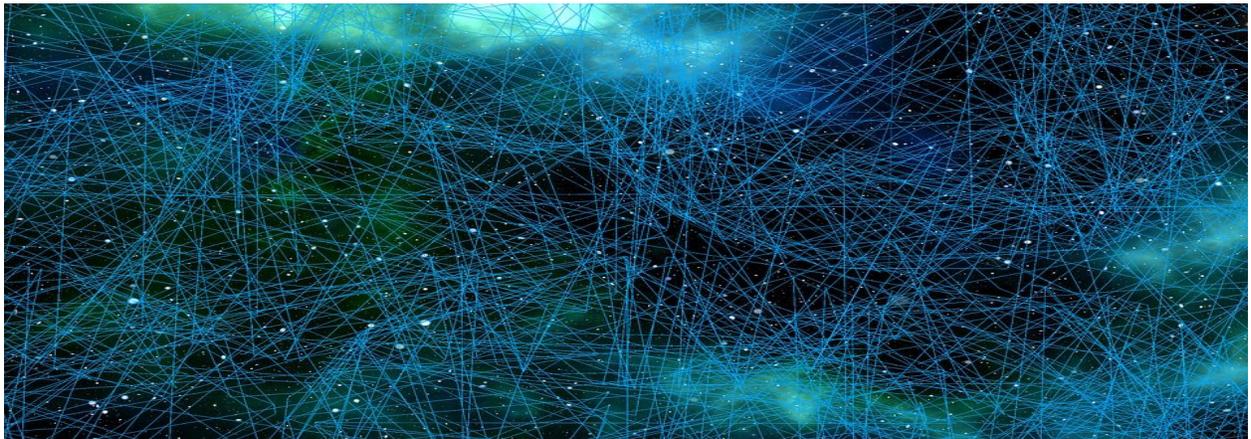


# Connections

"We are like islands in the sea, separate on the surface but connected in the deep."  
— William James

Human beings thrive on connection.

Societies are built on human connections. It makes sense to study and understand how and why humans connect, how societies are shaped around these connections, and what human beings need and receive from these connections. Beyond the associations humans have with each other, we are all part of an interconnected system, a great web of life. We rely on microscopic, imperceptible and amazingly complex interactions for our very survival. Even the tiniest elements of our existence can be understood as part of the fundamental fabric of the Universe, whose vastness we are still striving to understand. Viewing our existence through this lens can help us value the gifts that all beings have to offer each other.



## Essential Questions:

- How can we make connections across differences?
- What are the benefits and challenges of living in a diverse society?
- Why do people migrate?
- What are common immigrant experiences?
- What are the benefits and challenges of belonging to multiple identity groups?
- How are we connected to other living things and each other?
- How can I connect my questions and ideas to the field of science?
- What is a proportional relationship?
- What do we have in common with the larger Universe?
- How does math allow us to make connections?

*“A human being is a part of the whole called by us universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feeling as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.”*

— *Albert Einstein*

### What You Will Do:

- Design and conduct your own science projects (experiment, demonstration, research, etc.)
- Research the history and implications of the human genome
- Conduct experiments to explore the properties of matter
- Read, analyze, and discuss Alan Gratz’s novel, *Refugee*
- Interview and record oral histories of immigrants or research immigrant stories
- Seminar discussions on immigration-related personal narratives, articles, and photojournalism essays
- Evaluate and solve equations
- Use ratios, rates, and proportions in real-world applications
- Investigate our relationships with microorganisms

### What You Will Learn:

- How various groups and individuals have experienced immigration
- How immigration is connected to current events
- The basic patterns of human migration and push/pull factors that motivate migration
- The various ways in which migrating people are received in the countries they migrate to/through
- How properties of matter affect its characteristics and function
- How to solve multi-step equations
- Relationships of geometry and algebra
- How the interactions of the smallest living things can affect the largest

**“It really boils down to this: that all life is interrelated. We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied into a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one destiny, affects all indirectly.”**  
— **Martin Luther King Jr.**