

Preparing to Teach a Unit

Read and annotate the unit summary

What content and strategies will students learn?
What knowledge from previous grade levels will students bring to this unit?
How does this unit connect to future units and/or grade levels?



Read and annotate the unit standards

What are the different aspects of each standard?
What foundational standards do students need to access this unit?
What standards will this unit connect to in the future?



Look at the lessons overview

What are the big topics in this unit?
How do the lesson objectives progress within each topic and within the unit?
How do the lesson objectives connect back to the standards in the unit?



Take the unit assessment

How do the questions connect to the standards in the unit?
What new information about the standards can you glean from the questions?
How would you expect a student to approach each question?
What is a mastery student response to each question?
Does each question address a conceptual understanding, a process skill or fluency, or an application of concepts and skills?



Look at the essential understandings

What understandings do I expect from my students by the end of this unit?
How do these understandings come alive in individual lessons?



Look at the unit vocabulary, and unit materials, representations, and tools

What are the terms and symbols that are new or a major focus of this unit?
What materials and tools will my students need to be successful?



Complete all the target tasks

How does each target task connect to the lesson's objective and criteria for success?
What concepts and strategies will students need to draw on to be successful with each target task?
What misconceptions might students have and how can you prepare for them?