

Science as a Human Endeavour

Professional Learning Module



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Overview of the resource

The purpose of this professional learning module is to provide some insight into Science as a Human Endeavour. As you know it is the third strand of the Australian science curriculum.

The Australian science curriculum defines science as 'an empirical way of answering interesting and important questions about the biological, physical and technological world'

Humans ask questions that are investigated by inquiry. The answer to the questions create understanding that affects the life of humans and leads to more questions. This is the nature of science.

While the strand Science as a Human Endeavour is of equal importance as the other two strands Science Understanding and Science Inquiry Skills it is very different and should be treated differently.

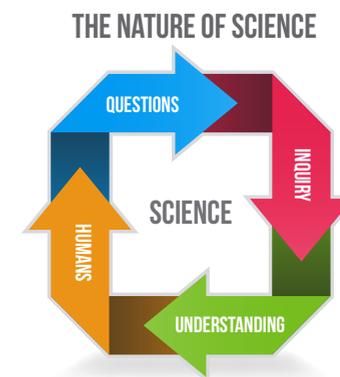
Essentially Science Understanding embodies science ideas and concepts and Science Inquiry skills capture the processes by which the science ideas are determined and validated.

To provide a context for these science ideas and skills you need the human dimension. Without the backdrop of science as a human endeavour many students find science lessons boring and irrelevant.

Science as a human endeavour is sometimes called SHE.

One of the myths about SHE is that it should be treated in the same way as the other two strands. This is not the case SHE is different and should be treated differently. The value of SHE is that it forms a context or a vehicle by which the science ideas and skills can be taught and learnt.

There are times when it may be appropriate to more explicitly highlight aspects of science as a human endeavour but the real worth of the strand is that it acts as the background for teaching the science ideas.



This module will provide many illustrations of the effective use and value of science as a human endeavour. The module is a web-based format. Its digital component is the entirety of the Science as a Human Endeavour professional learning resource. This complete resource includes text based information and videos (streamed).