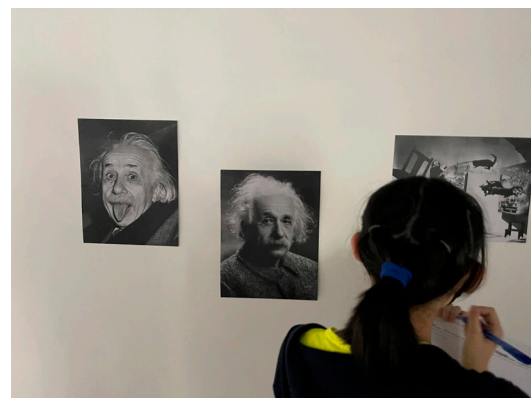




WHO IS THAILAND?







INTRODUCTION

These past few months the D-PREP 6th and 7th grade students have been very busy with our Learning Expedition “Who is Thailand?” Students were inspired to do this project when two journalists from the People’s Archive of Rural India (PARI) educated us about their work documenting the life of rural India. They told us a few different stories about ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

A few weeks later, a journalist named Mr. Peter came and talked to us about his job and said that he needed help with a mission. He told us about his news page, LICAS News. He said he needed our help in telling the stories of the people in Thailand from a student’s perspective, and that if we completed high quality work, he would publish it on his website. We accepted his request and vowed to do our very best. From both PARI and LICAS news, we saw examples of how written narratives were combined with pictures to create powerful portraits of individuals. We decided we would do the same and do our own journalistic work, capturing “portraits” in images and words of a diverse range of people in Thailand.

In deciding on the focus of the journalistic work we would do, we focused on answering an essential question for this learning expedition: “How have people’s life experiences in Thailand, particularly during the reign of King Rama IX, developed “life skills” and prepared them to be resilient, active citizens who can persevere through difficult times?”

To build our background knowledge and develop our research and writing skills, we first did a case study where we researched about the late King Rama IX, and then another case study where we each researched about an influential Asian person. We studied about their experiences, their obstacles and how they developed the life skills to persevere through difficult times. When thinking about the life skills of King Rama IX and each person we researched, we used the D-PREP Life Skills framework. We looked at each individual’s self knowledge, their social knowledge, their livelihood and finally how they practiced active citizenship.

After these case studies, we went on our first fieldwork to the Box Shot Studio and met Mr. JoJo, who is a photographer there. We observed him taking black and white portraits, and learned about the equipment that we would need for our own photography work. We also

learned about the life skills used by each member of the team at the studio, from the model to the owner and the lead photographer to his assistant, and how these life skills helped them to become successful professionals. This gave us the perspective on the professional skill sets that we would need in order to complete the work of the learning expedition, as we were going to be photographers too.

At the same time, we also conducted an in depth investigation in science about the physics of wave motion in light and sound. We learned how waves travel, their speed, and what is the difference between light and sound waves. In order to understand more about how the science of light is applied to the design and functioning of a camera, we conducted fieldwork at the Museum of Imaging Technology at Chula University. Here we also found out more about the camera and its long and interesting history.

We used what we learned in the science in depth investigations and fieldwork at the camera museum to design and build our own working pinhole camera. We followed the D-PREP Design Thinking Process. First we had to research and think of a plan. Second, we needed to find the box that would be used for the camera, and then we had to measure it. After that we had to cover the part that light can come through, and then we used a pin to poke a very small hole just for the light to come in. We made a shutter to close the hole and after we were done, we decorated the box. Lastly, we tested it. We use photographic paper and most of our experiment took about 15 seconds to let the light come through to make it work. We were able to see the image after we developed the paper with special chemicals.

In order to answer the essential question about how people developed the life skills to overcome challenges and persevere through difficult times, we had to develop our professional skill sets as journalists, including interviewing, writing and photography.

Interviewing was a big part of the learning expedition because we needed to do original research, like the PARI journalists did, in order to write our articles. This was not something we could search for on the internet. We started learning how to conduct an effective interview and started preparing by interviewing our classmates. We wrote lists of questions to ask the interviewee and interrogated our friends and a couple staff members. After attentively studying and preparing, we were able to conduct a successful interview with the people we met.

During the fieldwork, interviewing the inspiring people in Thailand, each group prepared a list of questions to interview the person they were assigned. Each group had a different experience. Some groups found that the person they were assigned was open and friendly, while other groups found that they needed to make the interviewee feel more comfortable. Additionally, a lot of students discovered that they did not need the script because interviews do not always go as planned. The interviewing fieldwork was exciting, fun, and a new experience for all of us.

To further develop our professional skill set as photographers, we had the opportunity to work with another expert, Khun Nin, who taught us about lighting in photography. There are two basic types of lighting: soft lighting and hard lighting. Soft lighting is when the lighting is soft and dim, for example, in the shade behind something. Hard lighting is the opposite of soft lighting. The lighting will be bright and hard.

We also had to spend time practicing our photography skills. First, we took portraits of teachers at school. We took many different shots of the person, talking to them and trying to make them feel comfortable by asking them simple questions, as the professional photographers had taught us to. Talking and interacting with them is important because it helps the model to relax and forget that they even have a camera in front of them. After we had our images, we worked in the ICT lab to edit the portrait we took to be black and white. Mr Alex taught us how to use Photoshop to edit our photos to be professional and high quality.

During our fieldwork when we did our interviews, we would take photo-journalistic photos, as well as the formal portrait of the person we were interviewing. Photojournalism is taking pictures of the things that are linked to our interviewee, such as the location of the interview, the things they showed us and pictures of them in their everyday lives. This will be put into our website to help the reader visualize what each individual does for a living or what their occupation is.

After the interview, there was a detailed process we needed to go through before we wrote our article. As we had recorded our interview, we listened to it again and transcribed the interview word for word. Transcribing the article was a slow process, and it took about 2 weeks. When the transcribing was done, we started the first draft of our article. We used all of the information from our interview to write an article that captures the experiences that the

individual went through and tells an inspiring story about the person. Our goal was to answer the essential question of the learning expedition for each of the people we interviewed.

After we wrote our article, we chose a related geography topic to research that was connected to the person in our article. Then it was time to build the website. The website is where all of our work will be posted as published. The first step to make the website was to look at different examples of websites and decide on the design criteria for our own. We practiced how to make a website by creating one about our darkroom. This helped us get familiar with the tools to build a website. After all of us were familiar with the interface, we started to make the actual website. The process of making the website took some time, but in the end we all have an inspiring website about the person we interviewed, ready to show the world.

We learned and grew throughout this learning expedition because we got to have many new experiences. We did not just learn from books, but we also really got to do and explore the world by ourselves. This is the first time that most of us have ever done anything like this. As it is the first time, it may not be perfect, but we got to learn many new skills, develop our own life skills, and it will help us to do even better work the next time. We hope you enjoy our articles, portraits, pictures and websites. We hope that they will leave you inspired, and you will see how everybody has the opportunity to develop the life skills to overcome challenges and persevere, just like the people in our articles.

By, Fleur G7, Gaemyui G7 and Ping Ping G6





NO OBSTACLE CAN STOP KHUN TONG FROM HELPING OTHERS

By: Liv and Gaemyui

**“If the obstacle won’t kill you, it will only make
you stronger.”**

– Pornpitcha Kaewtrakulpong (Khun Tong)

Pornpitcha Kaewtrakulpong, better known as Tong, is the owner of Elephant’s Home and Nature, an elephant sanctuary in the province of Kanchanaburi. She is doing everything she can to help and protect these amazing animals from harm.

Khun Tong has been through several challenges in her life. When her dad left her when she was only 1 month old, she did not understand so she considered her mother her knight in shining armour. Her mother worked tirelessly to bring in sufficient money for her and her three children. By the age of 14, Khun Tong started working alongside

completing her school work. Each month part of her monthly salary was given to her mother to help support the family. Unafraid of hard work, Khun Tong juggled multiple jobs while she was studying. She was a writer, a reporter, and she also supported her school in its written communications. Khun Tong was determined to do everything she could to earn money so she could pay for her education and at the same time help her family.

A few years later, Khun Tong got...

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FINDING HAPPINESS IN SIMPLE THINGS

By JJ and Just

“Money is only a piece of paper, but it cannot buy Happiness. Find your happiness. Do the things that make you happy because one day you will never get the chance to do it again.”

- Supasit Srisawathsak

Khun Jojo is looking through the viewfinder of his camera. He smiles. There is a bright flash, the model turns, click, click, click – everything is perfect!

Every mistake Khun Jojo makes, he learns from it. If he does not get the picture that he needs, he never gives up and keeps taking the photo over and over. He keeps doing more and more every single day. He is resilient and never gives up and every time he falls, he gets back up again. He continually pushes himself to learn new

things and keep practicing. “If you want to get better at something you need to enjoy it first,” notes Khun Jojo.

Khun Jojo’s love of photography did not easily transition him to getting work as a photographer. Time and again he had to convince the employers to hire him after presenting his portfolio to them. Even though it was not easy, there was no time for him to get upset. Every day, he worked hard to improve his skills and the quality of his photographs for his portfolio...

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LIVE THROUGH IT ALL

By: Ai and Pai

“I have never been scared of death, but I am afraid of suffering from hardships.”

– *Khun Yai Phueng*

...When Khun Yai Phueng was young, her dad passed away, and right after that, her dad's friend robbed their land in Uthai Thani. This resulted in her family becoming very poor and barely having anything to eat. Her mother, who suddenly became a single parent, did not have a choice, but to draw water from the pond to sell it. She could not afford to send Khun Yai Phueng to school, so Khun Yai Phueng only studied until the 4th grade.

The lack of food and money led to the reason why Khun Yai Phueng left home to live in Bangkok for 2 years and didn't come in contact with her mother during this time. she was 16 years old and had heard that Bangkok had endless running water

and was better than where she lived. Khun Yai Phueng traveled to Bangkok by boat, hoping to have a better life for her and her family back home.

During the 2 years away from her family, Khun Yai Phueng got a job as a maid, working for a wealthy family. No matter how hard it was for Khun Yai Phueng, and how much money she needed to support her family, she would never think of stealing from the family she worked for. She was well-trusted by this family.

After those 2 years of leaving home, Khun Yai Phueng was at one of the lowest points in her life. She was crying everyday...

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JOY OF THE ELEPHANTS

By Fleur and Aoey

“My life purpose is to be with the elephants.”

– Boonmee ‘Joy’ Singhkorn

Khun Joy smiled as he slowly walked beside his beloved elephant Nooknik. They cautiously approached the muddy river alongside the group of elephants, ready for the morning bath. He was wearing his usual outfit of a mo hom shirt (traditional Thai shirt), jeans and a red loincloth tied around his waist to keep it together.

Khun Joy’s journey as a mahout (elephant trainer or rider) started when he was 12 years old, when he finished grade 6. He has been with elephants since he was 4 years old, walking with them in the forest with his uncle. Despite not having a traditional academic education, Khun Joy is very happy with how his life has turned out. He has stated that if he is not a mahout,

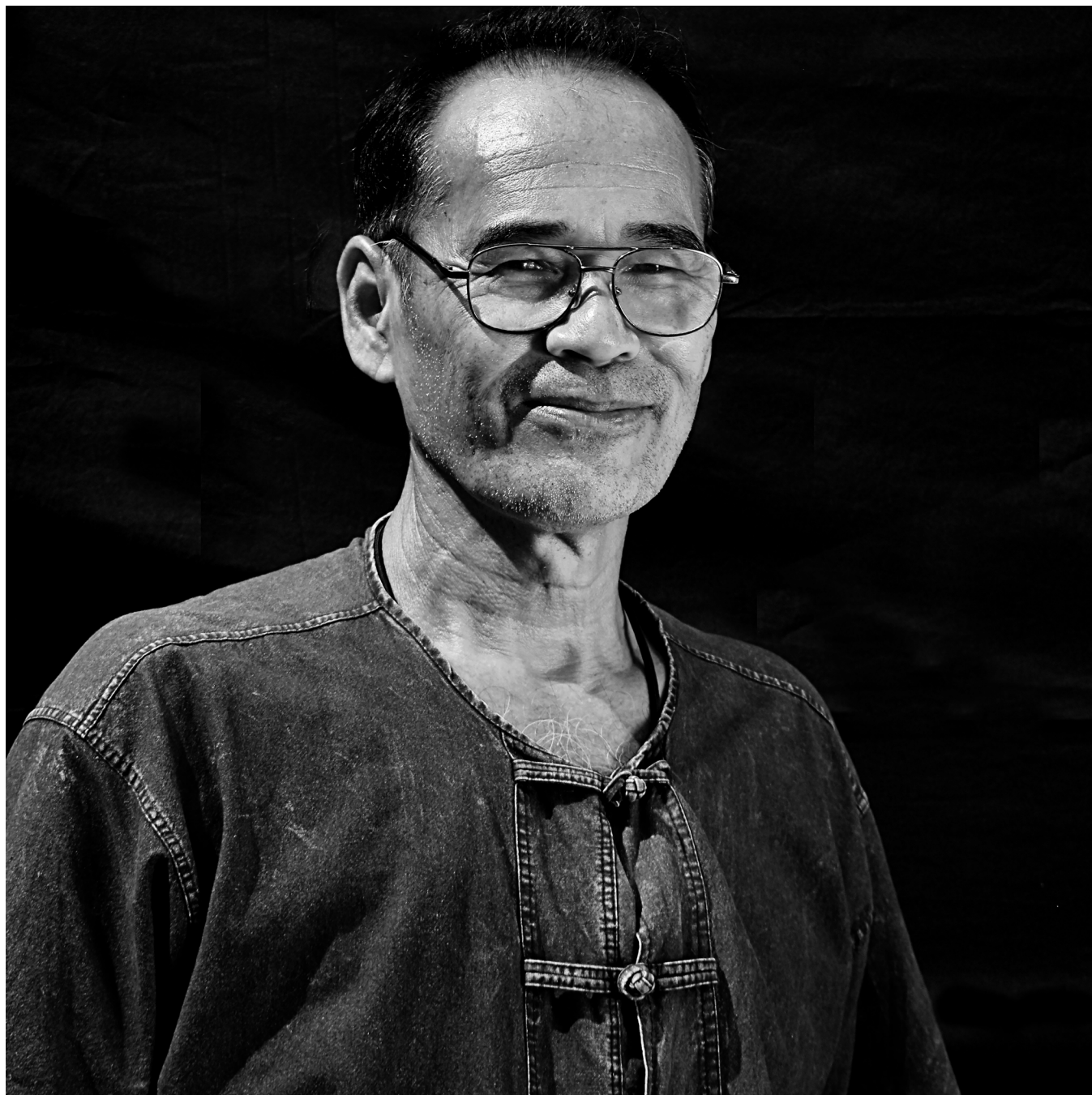
taking care of elephants, he would be a farmer growing crops back in his hometown Buriram or he would just stay at home and be unemployed.

His iconic love for elephants came from his family. His great grandparents had elephants named Bua Ngen and Bua Tong and passed them on to their children and so on. In school, the only thing that he was interested in was elephants. He was not good at academics. He only liked sports such as running. He had to chase his elephant across the river and into a mountain once.

At the Elephant’s Home and Nature in Kanchanaburi, where Khun Joy works, he is an active part of his small...

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THE AGRICULTURE SAGE

By Jaee, Minsong and Prin

“Knowledge does not choose a place, goodness does not choose people”

– Suchon Sukaseam

...He had no experience, no skill set, no knowledge about what he was doing. Instead of learning how to farm, he just imitated the others without knowing how to farm. After having an unsuccessful farming experience, and almost half a million baht in debt, Khun Suchon had to find a way to pay off his debts. That was when his friend invited him to work in Saudi Arabia, and Khun Suchon decided to go. For Khun Suchon, this was the only way to help pay off his growing debt.

Khun Suchon spent eight years in Saudi Arabia where he experienced various things. He worked in the mining industry,

with the hope that he can save money to pay off his debt. However, nine months after he was in Saudi Arabia, the Gulf War arose which forced the closure of all factories. With his debt in mind, he decided to stay in Saudi Arabia during the war. He did not want to go home without the money he needed to pay off his debt back home. It was a tough time for Khun Suchon.

After the war ended, the factories reopened. This gave Khun Suchon hope. However, that did not last long. Eight months after the war ended...

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PERSEVERING THROUGH CHALLENGES

By Jessica, Looksorn and Pran

“You can’t walk ten steps at the same time. You can only walk one step at a time.”

– *Khun Ton*

Ton, a sandwich vendor, had polio that affected both his arms and legs, but then a miracle happened. One day his arms and right leg were cured, but unfortunately, his left leg did not recover. His symptoms for polio started when he was 3 years old, because his mom could not afford to pay for his vaccine during that time.

Life has not been easy for Ton since he was young. Apart from having polio, he became a beggar for around twenty years, between the ages of three to twenty-four. One fateful day, while Ton was begging, he met Jeab. Jeab is a kind woman who just happened to drive by when he was begging on the streets. She gave Ton 100

baht, which during that time was a lot of money for Ton. Jeab was such a lifesaver to Ton. Every day, Jeab came back to the same spot where Ton begged on the street and gave him the same amount of money. 100 baht every day was enough for Ton and his family to eat and survive. He did not have to sit on the streets and beg for money anymore. Jeab was the answer to Ton’s struggles, he was grateful for her.

Until another obstacle entered Ton’s life. Ton once lived in a small apartment that he was renting. He needed to pay 1500 baht in two days to pay the rent, or else he would be kicked out of the...

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APHISARA, A DIAMOND ONCE IN THE ROUGH

By: Neutron and Ping Ping

“Always think of how you can make your life peaceful and happy.”

- Khun Aphisara

In a shop selling building materials, a vigorous, innocent, little girl was born. Her parents were benevolent and philanthropic, but unluckily they were fortuneless. However, despite being another victim of poverty, the girl's empathetic personality earned her another chance in life. The girl's name is Aphisara.

Unfortunately, her family situation was awful and underprivileged. So when Aphisara was 8, she had already started struggling with work. As immigrants from China, Aphisara's parents could not speak,

write, or read in Thai. They had eleven children and led a tiring life, however everyone was loving and cared for each other. Regardless of the dilemmas they had, Aphisara's parents never fought in front of their children, and taught them several life lessons that led them to happiness

Being unable to finish school, the knowledge Aphisara got from school was unusable when managing a business, however her love for her beloved children was tenaciously powerful, and she was willing to do anything that would...

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NEVER A FAILURE, ALWAYS A LESSON

By Mimi and Punpun

“Stick to your dream, never give up, and do what you think is right.”

- Auntie Nid

Auntie Nid was sitting at the bus stop, waiting patiently, with her sweet smile, lighting up her charming face. Wearing a simple patterned T-shirt paired with comfortable indigo shorts, she was waiting to begin her adventurous day. Seventy-three year old Auntie Nid has been selling bread for over twenty years, six days a week. Her happiness is being able to sell bread and protect herself from harm. Nevertheless, it did not start this way.

As a child, Auntie Nid studied at a blind school in Angthong for many years. During her school years, her life was not any different from any other child, going to

school then going home to do homework, until she started working. She first started selling lottery tickets, so she had to learn how to travel on her own. However, she would often get tricked by miscreant people. For instance, someone told her to go to a small dark alley where they will buy the lottery tickets, but instead the bad people stole all of her tickets. Because of being unable to see she could not describe the thief, so therefore no one could help her. Consequently, she decided to attempt selling bread instead, which was the starting point of her small business...

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BORN TO HELP OTHERS

By: Nop, Marc and Braeden

**“Do not work so hard just to become only rich, or
do no work at all as then you become very poor.
Live life in balance”**

-Prof. Chainarong Monthienvichienchai

As a child who grew up in Ayutthaya, Dr. Chainarong Monthienvichienchai was born in a village where Christianity was first introduced. His dad was a teacher in Ayutthaya. Initially, education for him was not the very best due to the fact that he lived in a small area. Being in a small area meant lesser resources. This school had less technology and fewer opportunities for growth. Dr. Chainarong believes that technology helps our life to be less of a struggle.

However, his father spent all of his earnings to send him to a boarding school, Assumption College, for a better education.

His father always told him that a good education is very important. Boarding school was a big change in his life because he had to do everything by himself, and he had the opportunity to learn subjects that he had never learned before. He had to be completely independent and exhibited self management skills. He struggled with new subjects being taught like English. His level of English was very low compared to his classmates because he had just moved from Ayutthaya and had not learned a lot of English before. He felt that it was difficult for him. He worked very hard and persevered to become...

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NOT JUST ANIMALS BUT ALSO THE ENVIRONMENT

By Mac and Pipe

“Lack of unity is humanity’s biggest obstacle.”

- Dr. Ben

...In high school, Dr. Ben took special trips to observe birds in the wild with his professors and was heavily inspired by it. His professors could name all the birds, so he became motivated and started to wake up early in order to look for exotic birds. He started observing their behaviors and got more curious about them. He investigated more about these birds and learned about them in multiple ways. Dr. Ben believes that we can learn by reading books and studying at school, but the best learning comes from experience.

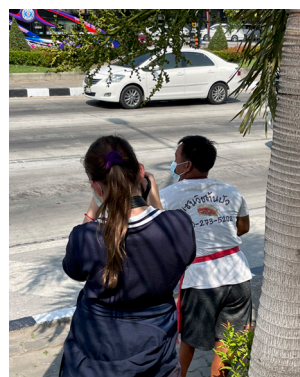
Even though Dr. Ben is kind to all animals, he is a reasonable person who looks at problems from different

perspectives. Once, he was handed a task to decide what they were going to do with the starving stray dogs which had to eat food from trash bins around the city. He told them that they could approach this in 2 ways, the first one is controlling and putting the dogs in a safe space, the second one is to put them to sleep. But once he said that, the entire room disagreed with him, saying he is cruel and does not care about the dogs. Everyone feels sorry for the dogs and looks at this problem only from the dog’s perspective. But on the other hand, what about the street cleaner? The ones who cleans up after the dogs when they make a mess on the street...

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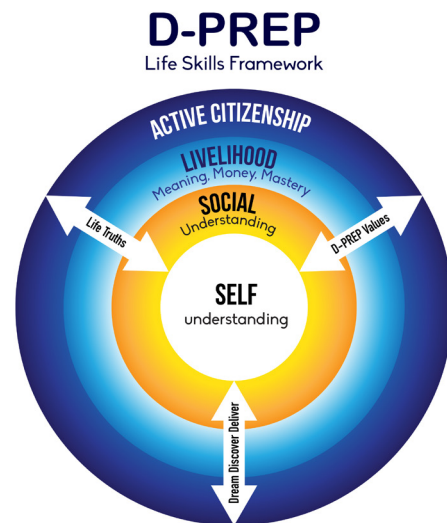
LIFE SKILLS AT D-PREP

A common criticism of schools is that they do not prepare young people for the real world outside of schools. That is to say, schools do not prepare students for life. At D-PREP, we have created our Life Skills Framework to make sure that our school is developing all the skills and capacities that students will need to be successful in both their academic schooling and life after school.

Our D-PREP Life Skills curriculum is a unique creation of our school that organizes essential life skills into four domains; self-understanding, social understanding, livelihood and active citizenship. The D-PREP structures of Dream, Discover, Deliver, our CO-CREATORS values, and The Life Truths support each domain.

The framework starts with self-understanding, through self-awareness and self-management. Second is social understanding, including awareness of others and relationship management.

The next domain is livelihood, broken down into 3 parts of “meaning, money and mastery.” This domain encompasses everything students will need to prepare for their livelihoods. Their livelihoods should bring meaning to their lives. It will also need to provide them with the money to be financially self-sufficient and to meet their goals. Students will need to develop the ability to achieve mastery, reaching a high level of success in their chosen field. Our implementation of EL Education’s three dimensions of student achievement, and the accompanying expeditionary learning practices, such as fieldwork, are an important part of developing the professional skill sets in school for students to be prepared for their future livelihood.



The final domain is active citizenship. The practice of active citizenship emphasizes that each of us has a responsibility to the community around us. Individual success is not enough. Young people will prepare for a lifetime of active citizenship by learning to practice it in their family, classroom, community, nation and ultimately by being global citizens. Active citizenship means that the individual makes a commitment to participate in a positive way to make the world a better place at all of these levels.

Every element of our school program and curriculum should intentionally develop life skills. Students develop strategies such as practicing mindfulness and self-awareness, emotional regulation through carrying out social experiments and hands on learning activities. Students are also taught about the science behind the brain's neurological processes and engage in observations and discussions regarding the connection of the brain's physiological make-up and how it affects our ability to regulate ourselves. Academic mastery of knowledge and skills prepares students for their future livelihoods, while also fostering their character development will make sure they will have the traits such as resilience and perseverance to overcome life's challenges. D-PREP teaches global mindedness while creating opportunities to connect student projects to the community through service learning that will help to foster active citizenship.

However, our Life Skills Framework is perhaps most evident in the interdisciplinary projects called learning expeditions. There is no more powerful description of this than to see our students' own words of reflection as to how they learned and grew from this experience. Please read a sampling of student reflections from the learning expedition "Who is Thailand?" To see how our Life Skills Framework is realized in these students' experiences.



STUDENT REFLECTIONS

During this adventurous expedition, I learned numerous lessons, both from studying and by experiencing it myself. The expedition was exhausting and arduous, overflowing with obstacles because of the limited time we had to accomplish the strenuous project. However, working on this expedition with my partner, Neutron, was both exciting and challenging. I had never done a project this important that consists of only two people. At first, I thought it was impossible, and I would not be able to reach the



standards of this expedition, but as soon as I actually started working on it, I realized that if I managed the project well enough, I would achieve several things.

When Neutron and I went to the interview, we prepared a list of questions so we would not get stuck and fortunately, Khun Aphisara was an open-minded person. I was greatly inspired by her stories and learned countless lessons from her. She made me realize how privileged I am to have a roof over my head, a loving family who cares for me, and to be able to attend a prestigious school.

This experience taught me to be resilient and to always try my best until the last second. Considering how new this kind of learning is to me, this also taught me to try new things because some things are worth learning about, like studying about Chachoengsao province. At first, I was anxious that there was nothing much to write about the province, but it turns out that the province was actually full of beguiling stories that were waiting to be shared out to the world and also has one of a kind traditions. Additionally, while researching for the essay about education in Thailand, I realized that the education system in most Thai schools is extremely weak and does not guarantee you a successful future because of the method they use, so I recognized that learning from our experiences can promise us a better future.

This once in a lifetime experience has by far been the most tiresome as well as most challenging project I have been a part of. However, it was a fascinating experience being able to interview an influential person and getting to write an inspiring story about them. Overall, the expedition was a marvellous experience, and I look forward to learning more about my community.

- Ping Ping G6

...After this experience, I was able to develop my confidence to have a conversation with strangers, develop my writing skills, have the opportunity to research and learn about new things, and create a website. This was a great learning experience for me that I will never forget...

- Pai G7

...These experiences will help me prepare for my livelihood in the future because whatever job I am going to do, it will always remind me to never give up, and always continue doing what I love as long as it does not cause any trouble for others. It will also help me to be compassionate towards others...

- Gaemyui G7



...I learned that we should not be discouraged from any difficulties in life. I also learned that we have to work hard in order to be successful. Talking to Khun Suchon makes me realize that when I grow up I have to work hard and not give up easily in order to be successful in life...

- Prin G6

...I have learned various new skills that will be useful in life and the job I may take in the future. I have learned to be courageous, adaptable, and manage myself well. Being courageous in interviewing people I just met, adaptable to different situations, and managing myself well on completing the tasks on time...

- Mimi G7



...This Learning Expedition was a new and surprising experience for me. I learned several skills throughout the expedition. I was able to develop my listening and reading skills. I also learned to translate from Thai to English during the interview...

- Mac G7

...This experience will prepare me for my livelihood in the future by taking Khun Yai Phueng's experience as my example and deciding my path in life. I would like to live a longer life and work hard like she did. She taught me to work hard and be resilient...

- Ai G7



...This learning expedition was cool, fun, adventurous, and exciting. Even though I was very nervous at the beginning, but because of Looksorn, Jessica, and all the teachers and supporters who helped me throughout this whole experience, I managed to learn and understand many more things I never knew. I am looking forward to meeting and interviewing a fighter like Khun Ton again...

- Pran G6



...From this Learning Expedition, I have learned how to become less shy and be more confident when talking to people whom I have just met. I have also learned that I was able to understand self awareness and social awareness more clearly because when I went to do the interview, I had to be aware of the people around me and how my actions can change everything...

- Marc G7



...This expedition is a very good learning experience for me as I learned more about this world. I will use the skills that I have learned from my experience to apply in my life and job in the future...

- PunPun G7

...Interviewing someone inspirational is a once in a lifetime experience, and that is what I felt when I interviewed Khun Ton. He is an inspirational person because he taught me important life lessons, such as we have to be patient in order to achieve our goals. He also taught me to be more courageous in life by not being fearful of obstacles and challenges that you encounter in life...

- Jessica G6



These past few months have been very busy with our Learning Expedition. Taking part in this expedition made me realize how capable I am with conducting interviews and writing them into interesting articles for people to read. I had to make the interviewee feel comfortable to open up to me and share their personal life stories and lessons, so I had to use good interview skills and body language. I had to make the person trust me enough to share information about them. The person I interviewed is Khun Joy, an elephant mahout, who has dedicated his whole life to be with the elephants which I find really inspiring. He gave up his education and knew what he wanted to do in life since he was a child.



If I want to become a journalist or an interviewer, I have the experience and skills I need to do so since this can be compared to the real work of a journalist. This can also be part of my portfolio which is useful for applying to college. This expedition helped me show active citizenship because I have learnt more about the rural side of Thailand and other people's life experiences. I am demonstrating active citizenship by donating to the Elephant's Home and Nature. I am helping them with their financial issues, as Khun Tong (the owner of Elephant's Home and Nature) is in huge debt trying to save the elephants which shows how kind hearted she is. Even the smallest amount of money will help to save the elephants since they are being mistreated and harmed in many different places in the world. Passionate people would give up anything to stop this cruelty and abuse that humans do to the poor helpless elephants. This expedition has taught me how to be thankful for what I have and compassionate for others, and I will benefit and use the skills I learnt along the way in my future.

- Fleur G-7

FIELDWORK AT D-PREP

D-PREP's middle school program is inspired by EL Education's "expeditionary learning" school design model and the 37 core practices that define it. Therefore, D-PREP also follows EL Education's expanded view of student achievement. In everything we do, we are seeking to foster achievement in

1. Mastery of knowledge and skills;
2. Character development;
3. High-quality student work with a real-world connection.;



"Fieldwork" is one of the most powerful and effective practices to develop a high level of achievement in all three dimensions of student achievement.

Fieldwork is when students conduct research or have experiences outside of the classroom, often interacting with professionals, experts, or resources that are directly tied to the content of their unit of curriculum, or "learning expedition." Fieldwork might sound a lot like school field trips, but there are important differences in both their design and rigor. As EL Education describes it, "The [expeditionary learning] model

connects students to the world beyond school through meaningful fieldwork, collaboration with experts, and service learning. In addition to learning from text and classroom-based experiences, students use the natural and social environments of their communities as sites for purposeful fieldwork and service connected to academic work. They collaborate with professional experts and community members with first hand knowledge of events and issues to ensure accuracy, integrity, and quality in their work.

EL Education differentiates between traditional field trips, in which students are often

spectators, and fieldwork, in which students are active investigators, applying the research tools, techniques of inquiry, and standards of presentation used by professionals in the field.”

Fieldwork there by also develops “professional skill sets” as the students work towards proficiency in all three dimensions of student achievement. Professional skill sets make up not only what students need to be successful in their N-12 schooling, but also to be competitive for, and successful in, college.



However, these professional skill sets are what students will ultimately need to be successful for the rest of their lives beyond schooling when they engage in their own livelihood or career.

The Learning Expedition “Who is Thailand?” has particularly challenging fieldwork. From working with professional photographers, meeting with university experts at museums, to working as actual journalist, conducting interviews and photography in a variety settings out in the field, our students were again and again challenged to step out of their comfort zone, directly apply their knowledge and skills, and draw on their character, in order to produce the high-quality work you see in this book.





D-PREP International School is a private Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 international school that is affiliated with the American School of Bangkok. Established since 1983, our D-PREP campus is located in Samutprakarn, in the heart of Bangna, Bangkok.

“Empowering students to be the next generation of innovators, real-world experts, and entrepreneurs to positively change the world.”

All our programs follow the experiential learning approach where students learn through direct hands-on experiences.

We believe in a balanced combination of strong academics, imagination, creativity, healthy social and emotional development, and leadership and life skills.



For more information about D-PREP

Web: www.dprep.ac.th

Call: 02-105-1757

Line: @d-prep



THANK YOU

This learning expedition was challenging, fun, and a new experience for all of us. It taught us countless things and helped us grow. Everyone got to go on fieldwork and learn more about our community and what really helps a person be successful in life, all in a whole new way. This project would not have been possible without the many people who have helped us.

Thank you Ms. Lady and Mr. Tor for creating D-PREP International School where we can learn through experiential learning.

Thank you Ms. Amy for being our principal and leading our school so we can have these experiences.

Thank you Mr. Chris for designing this learning expedition and for facilitating all the fieldwork and supporting us to step out of our comfort zone.

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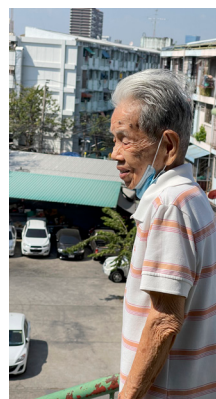
Thank you to all the D-PREP teachers and staff who supported us, the front office staff who helped arrange the logistics of all of our fieldwork, and the teachers who volunteered for portraits and practice interviews.

Thank you again to everyone who has helped and supported us during this learning expedition.





- Resourcefulness of people
- Ordinary people doing extraordinary things
- Challenge develops character
- Power of image







A Learning Expedition by D-PREP Students

