Dig into Rigor using the Depth and Complexity Icons
Dr. Sandra Kaplan developed the icons to:

- Quick Easy Application to any Material
- For Visual learners--A picture is worth a thousand words
- Provide scaffolding to do higher level thinking for ELL students and students with learning disabilities
- Increase student enthusiasm and motivation

Power of Icons

Provide structure and support for taking a deeper and more complex look at any topic
Dig Into Depth and Complexity

- An essential part of differentiating the curriculum through depth and complexity is using the 11 icons, and ensuring that students are familiar with them.
Let’s Dig into Depth First – What is it exactly?

- Refers to studying something from the concrete to the abstract, from the known to the unknown.
- Requires students to dig deeper into a topic of study.
- Encourages students to view different perspectives and to see patterns in connections.
Depth has the 8 major dimensions:

- **Language of the Disciplines**: Specialized vocabulary, names of skills or tasks, tools used

- **Details**: Attributes, parts, factors, variables

- **Patterns**: Repetition, predictability

- **Trends**: Influence, forces, direction

- **Rules**: Structure, order, hierarchy, explanation

- **Ethics**: Points of View, Different Opinions, judging

- **Big Idea**: Generalization, principle, theory

- **Unanswered Questions**: Discrepancies, missing parts, unclear ideas, incomplete ideas
Now it is time for Complexity

- Includes making relationships, connecting other concepts, and layering across disciplines in a unit of study.
- Relates concepts and ideas at a more sophisticated level
- Finds multiple solutions from multiple points of view
Complexity has three major dimensions:

- **Relate Over Time:** Between the past, present and future, and within a time period

- **Multiple Perspectives:** Identifying different points of view on issues, problems, and solution

- **Across Disciplines:** Making connections between 2 or more disciplines (interdisciplinary)
Keys to Activate Deeper Learning

Use **verbs** associated with the **nouns (icons)** of Depth and Complexity

- **Language of the Discipline**: categorize, identify
- **Details**: describe, differentiate
- **Patterns**: summarize, make analogies
- **Trends**: prioritize, predict
- **Rules**: judge credibility, hypothesize
- **Ethics**: judge with criteria, determine bias
- **Big Idea**: prove with evidence, identify main idea
- **Unanswered Questions**: note ambiguity, distinguish fact from fiction
Keys to Activate Deeper Learning
Use **verbs** associated with the **nouns (icons)** of Depth and Complexity

- **Relate over time:** relate, sequence, order
- **Multiple Perspectives:** argue, determine bias, classify
- **Across Disciplines:** compare, contrast, show relationships
Embed the Icons in your Classroom and Lessons (*samples*)

- Class Rules
- Attribute Blocks
- Archaeology
- First Day of School
Topic Goes in the Middle
I spy with my little eye?

How are patterns used by Picasso in The Three Musicians?
Time to for you to DIG IN to Dr. Seuss with the Icons!
But remember,

we are not teaching the icons, we are teaching concepts to new levels of depth and complexity using pictures to stand for the thinking strategies.