Topic Arrangements of the Next Generation Science Standards

At the beginning of the NGSS development process, in order to eliminate potential redundancy, seek an appropriate grain size, and seek natural connections among the Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCIs) identified within the Framework for K-12 Science Education, the writers arranged the DCIs into topics around which to develop the standards. This structure provided the original basis of the standards, and is preferred by many states. However, the coding structure of individual performance expectations reflects the DCI arrangement in the Framework.

Due to the fact that the NGSS progress toward end-of-high school core ideas, the standards may be rearranged in any order within a grade level.

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Elementary Standards

Students in kindergarten through fifth grade begin to develop an understanding of the four disciplinary core ideas: physical sciences; life sciences; earth and space sciences; and engineering, technology, and applications of science. In the earlier grades, students begin by recognizing patterns and formulating answers to questions about the world around them. By the end of fifth grade, students are able to demonstrate grade-appropriate proficiency in gathering, describing, and using information about the natural and designed world(s). The performance expectations in elementary school grade bands develop ideas and skills that will allow students to explain more complex phenomena in the four disciplines as they progress to middle school and high school. While the performance expectations shown in kindergarten through fifth grade couple particular practices with specific disciplinary core ideas, instructional decisions should include use of many practices that lead to the performance expectations.
Kindergarten

The performance expectations in kindergarten help students formulate answers to questions such as: “What happens if you push or pull an object harder? Where do animals live and why do they live there? What is the weather like today and how is it different from yesterday?” Kindergarten performance expectations include PS2, PS3, LS1, ESS2, ESS3, and ETS1 Disciplinary Core Ideas from the NRC Framework. Students are expected to develop understanding of patterns and variations in local weather and the purpose of weather forecasting to prepare for, and respond to, severe weather. Students are able to apply an understanding of the effects of different strengths or different directions of pushes and pulls on the motion of an object to analyze a design solution. Students are also expected to develop understanding of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive and the relationship between their needs and where they live. The crosscutting concepts of patterns; cause and effect; systems and system models; interdependence of science, engineering, and technology; and influence of engineering, technology, and science on society and the natural world are called out as organizing concepts for these disciplinary core ideas. In the kindergarten performance expectations, students are expected to demonstrate grade-appropriate proficiency in asking questions, developing and using models, planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, designing solutions, engaging in argument from evidence, and obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information. Students are expected to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas.
K. Forces and Interactions: Pushes and Pulls

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

**K-PS2-1. Plan and conduct an investigation to compare the effects of different strengths or different directions of pushes and pulls on the motion of an object.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of pushes or pulls could include a string attached to an object being pulled, a person pushing an object, a person stopping a rolling ball, and two objects colliding and pushing on each other.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to different relative strengths or different directions, but not both at the same time. Assessment does not include non-contact pushes or pulls such as those produced by magnets.]

**K-PS2-2. Analyze data to determine if a design solution works as intended to change the speed or direction of an object with a push or a pull.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of problems requiring a solution could include having a marble or other object move a certain distance, follow a particular path, and knock down other objects. Examples of solutions could include tools such as a ramp to increase the speed of the object and a structure that would cause an object such as a marble or ball to turn.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include friction as a mechanism for change in speed or direction.]

Science and Engineering Practices

- **Planning and Carrying Out Investigations**
  - Planning and carrying out investigations to answer questions or test solutions to problems in K-2 builds on prior experiences and progresses to simple investigations, based on fair tests, which provide data to support explanations or design solutions.
  - With guidance, plan and conduct an investigation in collaboration with peers. (K-PS2-1)

- **Analyzing and Interpreting Data**
  - Analyzing data in K-2 builds on prior experiences and progresses to collecting, recording, and sharing observations.
  - Analyze data from tests of an object or tool to determine if it works as intended. (K-PS2-2)

Connections to Nature of Science

**Scientific Investigations Use a Variety of Methods**
- Science uses different ways to study the world. (K-PS2-1)

Disciplinary Core Ideas

**PS2.A: Forces and Motion**
- Pushes and pulls can have different strengths and directions. (K-PS2-1),(K-PS2-2)
- Pushing or pulling on an object can change the speed or direction of its motion and can start or stop it. (K-PS2-1),(K-PS2-2)

**PS2.B: Types of Interactions**
- When objects touch or collide, they push on one another and can change motion. (K-PS2-1)

**PS3.C: Relationship Between Energy and Forces**
- A bigger push or pull makes things go faster. (secondary to K-PS2-1)

**ETS1.A: Defining Engineering Problems**
- A situation that people want to change or create can be approached as a problem to be solved through engineering. Such problems may have many acceptable solutions. (secondary to K-PS2-2)

Crosscutting Concepts

**Cause and Effect**
- Simple tests can be designed to gather evidence to support or refute student ideas about causes. (K-PS2-1),(K-PS2-2)

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education.*

*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.*

April 2013 NGSS Release
### K.Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems: Animals, Plants, and Their Environment

**Students who demonstrate understanding can:**

**K-LS1-1. Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive.**
- **Clarification Statement:** Examples of patterns could include that animals need to take in food but plants do not; the different kinds of food needed by different types of animals; the requirement of plants to have light; and, that all living things need water.

**K-ESS2-2. Construct an argument supported by evidence for how plants and animals (including humans) can change the environment to meet their needs.**
- **Clarification Statement:** Examples of plants and animals changing their environment could include a squirrel digs in the ground to hide its food and tree roots can break concrete.

**K-ESS3-1. Use a model to represent the relationship between the needs of different plants or animals (including humans) and the places they live.**
- **Clarification Statement:** Examples of relationships could include that deer eat buds and leaves, therefore, they usually live in forested areas; and, grasses need sunlight so they often grow in meadows. Plants, animals, and their surroundings make up a system.

**K-ESS3-3. Communicate solutions that will reduce the impact of humans on the land, water, air, and/or other living things in the local environment.**
- **Clarification Statement:** Examples of human impact on the land could include cutting trees to produce paper and using resources to produce bottles. Examples of solutions could include reusing paper and recycling cans and bottles.

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**Science and Engineering Practices**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Developing and Using Models</th>
<th>Analyzing and Interpreting Data</th>
<th>Engaging in Argument from Evidence</th>
<th>Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information</th>
<th>Scientific Knowledge is Based on Empirical Evidence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Modeling in K-2 builds on prior experiences and progresses to include using and developing models (i.e., diagram, drawing, physical replica, diorama, dramatization, or storyboard) that represent concrete events or design solutions.</td>
<td>Analyzing data in K-2 builds on prior experiences and progresses to collecting, recording, and sharing observations.</td>
<td>Engaging in argument from evidence in K-2 builds on prior experiences and progresses to comparing ideas and representations about the natural and designed world(s).</td>
<td>Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information in K-2 builds on prior experiences and uses observations and texts to communicate new information.</td>
<td>Scientists look for patterns and order when making observations about the world. (K-LS1-1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Use a model to represent relationships in the natural world. (K-ESS3-1)</td>
<td>- Use observations (firsthand or from media) to describe patterns in the natural world in order to answer scientific questions. (K-LS1-1)</td>
<td>- Construct an argument with evidence to support a claim. (K-ESS2-2)</td>
<td>- Communicate solutions with others in oral and/or written forms using models and/or drawings that provide detail about scientific ideas. (K-ESS3-3)</td>
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</tbody>
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**Disciplinary Core Ideas**

**LS1.C: Organization for Matter and Energy Flow in Organisms**
- All animals need food in order to live and grow. They obtain their food from plants or from other animals. Plants need water and light to live and grow. (K-LS1-1)

**ESS2.E: Biogeology**
- Plants and animals can change their environment. (K-ESS2-2)

**ESS3.A: Natural Resources**
- Living things need water, air, and resources from the land, and they live in places that have the things they need. Humans use natural resources for everything they do. (K-ESS3-1)

**ESS3.C: Human Impacts on Earth Systems**
- Things that people do to live comfortably can affect the world around them. But they can make choices that reduce their impacts on the land, water, air, and other living things. (secondary to K-ESS2-2),(K-ESS3-3)

**ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions**
- Designs can be conveyed through sketches, drawings, or physical models. These representations are useful in communicating ideas for a problem’s solutions to other people. (secondary to K-ESS3-3)

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**Crosscutting Concepts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patterns</th>
<th>Cause and Effect</th>
<th>Systems and System Models</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Patterns in the natural and human designed world can be observed and used as evidence. (K-LS1-1)</td>
<td>- Events have causes that generate observable patterns. (K-ESS3-3)</td>
<td>- Systems in the natural and designed world have parts that work together. (K-ESS2-2),(K-ESS3-1)</td>
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Connections to other DCIs in this grade-level: will be available on or before April 26, 2013.

Articulation of DCIs across grade-levels: will be available on or before April 26, 2013.

Common Core State Standards Connections: will be available on or before April 26, 2013.

ELA/Literacy –

Mathematics –

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*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.

April 2013 NGSS Release
**K.Weather and Climate**

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

**K-ESS2-1. Use and share observations of local weather conditions to describe patterns over time.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of qualitative observations could include descriptions of the weather (such as sunny, cloudy, rainy, and warm); examples of quantitative observations could include numbers of sunny, windy, and rainy days in a month. Examples of patterns could include that it is usually cooler in the morning than in the afternoon and the number of sunny days versus cloudy days in different months.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment of quantitative observations limited to whole numbers and relative measures such as warmer/cooler.]

**K-ESS2-2. Ask questions to obtain information about the purpose of weather forecasting to prepare for, and respond to, severe weather.** [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on local forms of severe weather.]

**K-PS3-1. Make observations to determine the effect of sunlight on Earth’s surface.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of Earth’s surface could include sand, soil, rocks, and water] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment of temperature is limited to relative measures such as warmer/cooler.]

**K-PS3-2. Use tools and materials to design and build a structure that will reduce the warming effect of sunlight on an area.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of structures could include umbrellas, canopies, and tents that minimize the warming effect of the sun.]

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### Disciplinary Core Ideas

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Sunlight warms Earth’s surface. (K-PS3-1),(K-PS3-2)</td>
<td>• Weather is the combination of sunlight, wind, snow or rain, and temperature in a particular region at a particular time. People measure these conditions to describe and record the weather and to notice patterns over time. (K-ESS2-1)</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ESS3.B: Natural Hazards</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Some kinds of severe weather are more likely than others in a given region. Weather scientists forecast severe weather so that the communities can prepare for and respond to these events. (K-ESS2-2)</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ETS1.A: Defining and Delimiting an Engineering Problem</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Asking questions, making observations, and gathering information are helpful in thinking about problems. (secondary to K-ESS3-2)</td>
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### Crosscutting Concepts

#### Patterns
- Patterns in the natural world can be observed, used to describe phenomena, and used as evidence. (K-ESS2-1)
- Events have causes that generate observable patterns. (K-ESS3-2),(K-PS3-1),(K-PS3-2)

#### Interdependence of Science, Engineering, and Technology
- People encounter questions about the natural world every day. (K-ESS3-2)
- People depend on various technologies in their lives; human life would be very different without technology. (K-ESS3-2)

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April 2013 NGSS Release
First Grade

The performance expectations in first grade help students formulate answers to questions such as: “What happens when materials vibrate? What happens when there is no light? What are some ways plants and animals meet their needs so that they can survive and grow? How are parents and their children similar and different? What objects are in the sky and how do they seem to move?” First grade performance expectations include PS4, LS1, LS3, and ESS1 Disciplinary Core Ideas from the NRC Framework. Students are expected to develop understanding of the relationship between sound and vibrating materials as well as between the availability of light and ability to see objects. The idea that light travels from place to place can be understood by students at this level through determining the effect of placing objects made with different materials in the path of a beam of light. Students are also expected to develop understanding of how plants and animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs as well as how behaviors of parents and offspring help the offspring survive. The understanding is developed that young plants and animals are like, but not exactly the same as, their parents. Students are able to observe, describe, and predict some patterns of the movement of objects in the sky. The crosscutting concepts of patterns; cause and effect; structure and function; and influence of engineering, technology, and science on society and the natural world are called out as organizing concepts for these disciplinary core ideas. In the first grade performance expectations, students are expected to demonstrate grade-appropriate proficiency in planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, constructing explanations and designing solutions, and obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information. Students are expected to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas.
1. Waves: Light and Sound

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

1-PS4-1. Plan and conduct investigations to provide evidence that vibrating materials can make sound and that sound can make materials vibrate. [Clarification Statement: Examples of vibrating materials that make sound could include tuning forks and plucking a stretched string. Examples of how sound can make matter vibrate could include holding a piece of paper near a speaker making sound and holding an object near a vibrating tuning fork.]

1-PS4-2. Make observations to construct an evidence-based account that objects can be seen only when illuminated. [Clarification Statement: Examples of observations could include those made in a completely dark room, a pinhole box, and a video of a cave explorer with a flashlight. Illumination could be from an external light source or by an object giving off its own light.]

1-PS4-3. Plan and conduct an investigation to determine the effect of placing objects made with different materials in the path of a beam of light. [Clarification Statement: Examples of materials could include those that are transparent (such as clear plastic), translucent (such as wax paper), opaque (such as cardboard), and reflective (such as a mirror).] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include the speed of light.]

1-PS4-4. Use tools and materials to design and build a device that uses light or sound to solve the problem of communicating over a distance.* [Clarification Statement: Examples of devices could include a light source to send signals, paper cup and string "telephones," and a pattern of drum beats.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include technological details for how communication devices work.]

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document: A Framework for K-12 Science Education:

- Science and Engineering Practices
  - Planning and Carrying Out Investigations
  - Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions
- Scientific Investigations Use a Variety of Methods
  - Science investigations begin with a question. (1-PS4-1)
  - Science uses different ways to study the world. (1-PS4-1)

Disciplinary Core Ideas

PS4.A: Wave Properties
- Sound can make matter vibrate, and vibrating matter can make sound. (1-PS4-1)

PS4.B: Electromagnetic Radiation
- Objects can be seen only when light is available to illuminate them. Some objects give off their own light. (1-PS4-2)
- Some materials allow light to pass through them, others allow only some light through and others block all the light and create a dark shadow on any surface beyond them, where the light cannot reach. Mirrors can be used to redirect a light beam. (Boundary: The idea that light travels from place to place is developed through experiences with light sources, mirrors, and shadows, but no attempt is made to discuss the speed of light.) (1-PS4-3)

PS4.C: Information Technologies and Instrumentation
- People also use a variety of devices to communicate (send and receive information) over long distances. (1-PS4-4)

Crosscutting Concepts

Cause and Effect
- Simple tests can be designed to gather evidence to support or refute student ideas about causes. (1-PS4-1, 1-PS4-2, 1-PS4-3)

Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science

Influence of Engineering, Technology, and Science, on Society and the Natural World
- People depend on various technologies in their lives; human life would be very different without technology. (1-PS4-4)

*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.

April 2013 NGSS Release
1. Structure, Function, and Information Processing

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

1-LS1-1. Use materials to design a solution to a human problem by mimicking how plants and/or animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs.* [Clarification Statement: Examples of human problems that can be solved by mimicking plant or animal solutions could include designing clothing or equipment to protect bicyclists by mimicking turtle shells, acorn shells, and animal scales; stabilizing structures by mimicking animal tails and roots on plants; keeping out intruders by mimicking thorns on branches and animal quills; and, detecting intruders by mimicking eyes and ears.]

1-LS1-2. Read texts and use media to determine patterns in behavior of parents and offspring that help offspring survive. [Clarification Statement: Examples of patterns could include the signals that offspring make (such as crying, cheeping, and other vocalizations) and the responses of the parents (such as feeding, comforting, and protecting the offspring).]

1-LS1-3. Make observations to construct an evidence-based account that young plants and animals are like, but not exactly like, their parents. [Clarification Statement: Examples of patterns could include features plants or animals share. Examples of observations could include leaves from the same kind of plant are the same shape but can differ in size; and, a particular breed of dog looks like its parents but is not exactly the same.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include inheritance or animals that undergo metamorphosis or hybrids.]

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions</td>
<td>LS1.A: Structure and Function</td>
<td>Patterns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constructing explanations and designing solutions in K–2 builds on prior experiences and progresses to the use of evidence and ideas in constructing evidence-based accounts of natural phenomena and designing solutions.</td>
<td>• All organisms have external parts. Different animals use their body parts in different ways to see, hear, grasp objects, protect themselves, move from place to place, and seek, find, and take in food, water and air. Plants also have different parts (roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits) that help them survive and grow. (1-LS1-1)</td>
<td>• Patterns in the natural world can be observed, used to describe phenomena, and used as evidence. (1-LS1-2), (1-LS3-1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Make observations (firsthand or from media) to construct an evidence-based account for natural phenomena. (1-LS3-1)</td>
<td>LS1.B: Growth and Development of Organisms</td>
<td>Structure and Function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Use materials to design a device that solves a specific problem or a solution to a specific problem. (1-LS1-1)</td>
<td>• Adult plants and animals can have young. In many kinds of animals, parents and the offspring engage in behaviors that help the offspring survive. (1-LS1-2)</td>
<td>• The shape and stability of structures of natural and designed objects are related to their function(s). (1-LS1-1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information</td>
<td>LS1.D: Information Processing</td>
<td>Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information in K–2 builds on prior experiences and uses observations and texts to communicate new information.</td>
<td>• Animals have body parts that capture and convey different kinds of information needed for growth and survival. Animals respond to these inputs with behaviors that help them survive. Plants also respond to some external inputs. (1-LS1-1)</td>
<td>Influence of Engineering, Technology, and Science on Society and the Natural World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Read grade-appropriate texts and use media to obtain scientific information to determine patterns in the natural world. (1-LS1-2)</td>
<td>LS3.A: Inheritance of Traits</td>
<td>• Every human-made product is designed by applying some knowledge of the natural world and is built by using natural materials. (1-LS1-1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific Knowledge is Based on Empirical Evidence</td>
<td>LS3.B: Variation of Traits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Scientists look for patterns and order when making observations about the world. (1-LS1-2)</td>
<td>• Individuals of the same kind of plant or animal are recognizable as similar but can also vary in many ways. (1-LS3-1)</td>
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*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.
# 1. Space Systems: Patterns and Cycles

**Students who demonstrate understanding can:**

**1-ESS1-1. Use observations of the sun, moon, and stars to describe patterns that can be predicted.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of patterns could include that the sun and moon appear to rise in one part of the sky, move across the sky, and set; and stars other than our sun are visible at night but not during the day.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment of star patterns is limited to stars being seen at night and not during the day.]

**1-ESS1-2. Make observations at different times of year to relate the amount of daylight to the time of year.** [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on relative comparisons of the amount of daylight in the winter to the amount in the spring or fall.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to relative amounts of daylight, not quantifying the hours or time of daylight.]

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Science and Engineering Practices</th>
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<th>Crosscutting Concepts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Planning and Carrying Out Investigations</strong></td>
<td><strong>ESS1.A: The Universe and its Stars</strong></td>
<td><strong>Patterns</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning and carrying out investigations to answer questions or test solutions to problems in K–2 builds on prior experiences and progresses to simple investigations, based on fair tests, which provide data to support explanations or design solutions.</td>
<td>• Patterns of the motion of the sun, moon, and stars in the sky can be observed, described, and predicted. (1-ESS1-1)</td>
<td>• Patterns in the natural world can be observed, used to describe phenomena, and used as evidence. (1-ESS1-1), (1-ESS1-2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Analyzing and Interpreting Data</strong></td>
<td><strong>ESS1.B: Earth and the Solar System</strong></td>
<td><strong>Connections to Nature of Science</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analyzing data in K–2 builds on prior experiences and progresses to collecting, recording, and sharing observations.</td>
<td>• Seasonal patterns of sunrise and sunset can be observed, described, and predicted. (1-ESS1-2)</td>
<td><strong>Scientific Knowledge Assumes an Order and Consistency in Natural Systems</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use observations (firsthand or from media) to describe patterns in the natural world in order to answer scientific questions. (1-ESS1-1)</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Science assumes natural events happen today as they happened in the past. (1-ESS1-1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make observations (firsthand or from media) to collect data that can be used to make comparisons. (1-ESS1-2)</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Many events are repeated. (1-ESS1-1)</td>
</tr>
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*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.*

April 2013 NGSS Release
Second Grade

The performance expectations in second grade help students formulate answers to questions such as: “How does land change and what are some things that cause it to change? What are the different kinds of land and bodies of water? How are materials similar and different from one another, and how do the properties of the materials relate to their use? What do plants need to grow? How many types of living things live in a place?” Second grade performance expectations include PS1, LS2, LS4, ESS1, ESS2, and ETS1 Disciplinary Core Ideas from the *NRC Framework*. Students are expected to develop an understanding of what plants need to grow and how plants depend on animals for seed dispersal and pollination. Students are also expected to compare the diversity of life in different habitats. An understanding of observable properties of materials is developed by students at this level through analysis and classification of different materials. Students are able to apply their understanding of the idea that wind and water can change the shape of the land to compare design solutions to slow or prevent such change. Students are able to use information and models to identify and represent the shapes and kinds of land and bodies of water in an area and where water is found on Earth. The crosscutting concepts of patterns; cause and effect; energy and matter; structure and function; stability and change; and influence of engineering, technology, and science on society and the natural world are called out as organizing concepts for these disciplinary core ideas. In the second grade performance expectations, students are expected to demonstrate grade-appropriate proficiency in developing and using models, planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, constructing explanations and designing solutions, engaging in argument from evidence, and obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information. Students are expected to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas.
## 2. Structure and Properties of Matter

**2-PS1-1. Plan and conduct an investigation to describe and classify different kinds of materials by their observable properties.** [Clarification Statement: Observations could include color, texture, hardness, and flexibility. Patterns could include the similar properties that different materials share.]

**2-PS1-2. Analyze data obtained from testing different materials to determine which materials have the properties that are best suited for an intended purpose.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of properties could include, strength, flexibility, hardness, texture, and absorbency.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment of quantitative measurements is limited to length.]

**2-PS1-3. Make observations to construct an evidence-based account of how an object made of a small set of pieces can be disassembled and made into a new object.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of pieces could include blocks, building bricks, or other assorted small objects.]

**2-PS1-4. Construct an argument with evidence that some changes caused by heating or cooling can be reversed and some cannot.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of reversible changes could include materials such as water and butter at different temperatures. Examples of irreversible changes could include cooking an egg, freezing a plant leaf, and heating paper.]

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document A Framework for K-12 Science Education:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Science and Engineering Practices</th>
<th>Disciplinary Core Ideas</th>
<th>Crosscutting Concepts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Planning and Carrying Out Investigations</strong> Planning and carrying out investigations to answer questions or test solutions to problems in K–2 builds on prior experiences and progresses to simple investigations, based on fair tests, which provide data to support explanations or design solutions.</td>
<td><strong>PS1.A: Structure and Properties of Matter</strong> Different kinds of matter exist and many of them can be either solid or liquid, depending on temperature. Matter can be described and classified by its observable properties. (2-PS1-1) Different properties are suited to different purposes. (2-PS1-2,2-PS1-3) A great variety of objects can be built up from a small set of pieces. (2-PS1-3)</td>
<td><strong>Patterns</strong> Patterns in the natural and human designed world can be observed. (2-PS1-1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Analyzing and Interpreting Data</strong> Analyzing data in K–2 builds on prior experiences and progresses to collecting, recording, and sharing observations. Analyze data from tests of an object or tool to determine if it works as intended. (2-PS1-2)</td>
<td><strong>PS1.B: Chemical Reactions</strong> Heating or cooling a substance may cause changes that can be observed. Sometimes these changes are reversible, and sometimes they are not. (2-PS1-4)</td>
<td><strong>Cause and Effect</strong> Events have causes that generate observable patterns. (2-PS1-4) Simple tests can be designed to gather evidence to support or refute student ideas about causes. (2-PS1-2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions</strong> Constructing explanations and designing solutions in K–2 builds on prior experiences and progresses to the use of evidence and ideas in constructing evidence-based accounts of natural phenomena and designing solutions. Make observations (firsthand or from media) to construct an evidence-based account for natural phenomena. (2-PS1-3)</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Energy and Matter</strong> Objects may break into smaller pieces and be put together into larger pieces, or change shapes. (2-PS1-3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Engaging in Argument from Evidence</strong> Engaging in argument from evidence in K–2 builds on prior experiences and progresses to comparing ideas and representations about the natural and designed world(s). Construct an argument with evidence to support a claim. (2-PS1-4)</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Connections to Nature of Science**

**Science Models, Laws, Mechanisms, and Theories Explain Natural Phenomena** Science searches for cause and effect relationships to explain natural events. (2-PS1-4)

*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.*

April 2013 NGSS Release
2. Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

2-LS2-1. Plan and conduct an investigation to determine if plants need sunlight and water to grow. [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to testing one variable at a time.]

2-LS2-2. Develop a simple model that mimics the function of an animal in dispersing seeds or pollinating plants.*

2-LS4-1. Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the diversity of living things in each of a variety of different habitats.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include specific animal and plant names in specific habitats.]

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

### Science and Engineering Practices

**Developing and Using Models**
- Modeling in K–2 builds on prior experiences and progresses to include using and developing models (i.e., diagram, drawing, physical replica, diorama, dramatization, or storyboard) that represent concrete events or design solutions.
  - Develop a simple model based on evidence to represent a proposed object or tool. (2-LS2-2)

**Planning and Carrying Out Investigations**
- Planning and carrying out investigations to answer questions or test solutions to problems in K–2 builds on prior experiences and progresses to simple investigations, based on fair tests, which provide data to support explanations or design solutions.
  - Plan and conduct an investigation collaboratively to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence to answer a question. (2-LS2-1)
  - Make observations (firsthand or from media) to collect data which can be used to make comparisons. (2-LS4-1)

### Disciplinary Core Ideas

**LS2.A: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems**
- Plants depend on water and light to grow. (2-LS2-1)
- Plants depend on animals for pollination or to move their seeds around. (2-LS2-2)

**LS4.D: Biodiversity and Humans**
- There are many different kinds of living things in any area, and they exist in different places on land and in water. (2-LS4-1)

**ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions**
- Designs can be conveyed through sketches, drawings, or physical models. These representations are useful in communicating ideas for a problem’s solutions to other people. (secondary to 2-LS2-2)

### Crosscutting Concepts

**Cause and Effect**
- Events have causes that generate observable patterns. (2-LS2-1)

**Structure and Function**
- The shape and stability of structures of natural and designed objects are related to their function(s). (2-LS2-2)

### Scientific Knowledge is Based on Empirical Evidence

- Scientists look for patterns and order when making observations about the world. (2-LS4-1)

Connections to other DCIs in this grade-level: will be available on or before April 26, 2013.

Articulation of DCIs across grade-levels: will be available on or before April 26, 2013.

Common Core State Standards Connections: will be available on or before April 26, 2013.

ELA/Literacy –
Mathematics –

*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.

April 2013 NGSS Release
2. Earth’s Systems: Processes that Shape the Earth

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

**2-ESS1-1. Make observations from media to construct an evidence-based account that Earth events can occur quickly or slowly.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of events and timescales could include volcanic explosions and earthquakes, which happen quickly and erosion of rocks, which occurs slowly.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include quantitative measurements of timescales.]

**2-ESS2-1. Compare multiple solutions designed to slow or prevent wind or water from changing the shape of the land.* [Clarification Statement: Examples of solutions could include different designs of dikes and windbreaks to hold back wind and water, and different designs for using shrubs, grass, and trees to hold back the land.]**

**2-ESS2-2. Develop a model to represent the shapes and kinds of land and bodies of water in an area.** [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include quantitative scaling in models.]

**2-ESS2-3. Obtain information to identify where water is found on Earth and that it can be solid or liquid.**

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education:*

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**Science and Engineering Practices**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Developing and Using Models</th>
<th>Disciplinary Core Ideas</th>
<th>Crosscutting Concepts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Modeling in K-2 builds on prior experiences and progresses to include using and developing models (i.e., diagram, drawing, physical replica, diorama, dramatization, or storyboard) that represent concrete events or design solutions.</strong></td>
<td><strong>2-ESS1: The History of Planet Earth</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Some events happen very quickly; others occur very slowly, over a time period much longer than one can observe. (2-ESS1-1)</td>
<td><strong>Patterns</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Patterns in the natural world can be observed. (2-ESS2-2),(2-ESS2-3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2-ESS2-2</strong></td>
<td><strong>ESS2:A: Earth Materials and Systems</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Wind and water can change the shape of the land. (2-ESS2-1)</td>
<td><strong>Stability and Change</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Things may change slowly or rapidly. (2-ESS1-1),(2-ESS2-1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions</strong>&lt;br&gt;Constructing explanations and designing solutions in K-2 builds on prior experiences and progresses to the use of evidence and ideas in constructing evidence-based accounts of natural phenomena and designing solutions.</td>
<td><strong>ESS2:B: Plate Tectonics and Large-Scale System Interactions</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Maps show where things are located. One can map the shapes and kinds of land and water in any area. (2-ESS2-2)</td>
<td><strong>Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Make observations (firsthand or from media) to construct an evidence-based account for natural phenomena. (2-ESS1-1)</td>
<td><strong>ESS2:C: The Roles of Water in Earth’s Surface Processes</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Water is found in the ocean, rivers, lakes, and ponds. Water exists as solid ice and in liquid form. (2-ESS2-3)</td>
<td><strong>Influence of Engineering, Technology, and Science on Society and the Natural World</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Developing and using technology has impacts on the natural world. (2-ESS2-1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Compare multiple solutions to a problem. (2-ESS2-1)** Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information**&lt;br&gt;Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information in K-2 builds on prior experiences and uses observations and texts to communicate new information.</td>
<td><strong>ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Because there is always more than one possible solution to a problem, it is useful to compare and test designs. (secondary to 2-ESS2-1)</td>
<td><strong>Connections to Nature of Science</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Obtain information using various texts, text features (e.g., headings, tables of contents, glossaries, electronic menus, icons), and other media that will be useful in answering a scientific question. (2-ESS2-3)</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Science Addresses Questions About the Natural and Material World</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Scientists study the natural and material world. (2-ESS2-1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.

April 2013 NGSS Release
### Science and Engineering Practices

#### Asking Questions and Defining Problems
- Asking questions and defining problems in K–2 builds on prior experiences and progresses to simple descriptive questions.
  - Ask questions based on observations to find more information about the natural and/or designed world. (K-2-ETS1-1)
  - Define a simple problem that can be solved through the development of a new or improved object or tool. (K-2-ETS1-1)

#### Developing and Using Models
- Modeling in K–2 builds on prior experiences and progresses to include using and developing models (i.e., diagram, drawing, physical replica, diorama, dramatization, or storyboard) that represent concrete events or design solutions.
  - Develop a simple model based on evidence to represent a proposed object or tool. (K-2-ETS1-2)

#### Analyzing and Interpreting Data
- Analyzing data in K–2 builds on prior experiences and progresses to collecting, recording, and sharing observations.
  - Analyze data from tests of an object or tool to determine if it works as intended. (K-2-ETS1-3)

### Disciplinary Core Ideas

#### ETS1.A: Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems
- A situation that people want to change or create can be approached as a problem to be solved through engineering. (K-2-ETS1-1)
- Asking questions, making observations, and gathering information are helpful in thinking about problems. (K-2-ETS1-1)
- Before beginning to design a solution, it is important to clearly understand the problem. (K-2-ETS1-1)

#### ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions
- Designs can be conveyed through sketches, drawings, or physical models. These representations are useful in communicating ideas for a problem’s solutions to other people. (K-2-ETS1-2)

#### ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution
- Because there is always more than one possible solution to a problem, it is useful to compare and test designs. (K-2-ETS1-3)

### Crosscutting Concepts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structure and Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- The shape and stability of structures of natural and designed objects are related to their function(s). (K-2-ETS1-2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Connections to other DCIs in this grade-level: will be available on or before April 26, 2013.

Articulation of DCIs across grade-levels: will be available on or before April 26, 2013.

Connections to K-2-ETS1.A: Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems include:
- Kindergarten: K-PS2-2, K-ESS3-2
- Connections to K-2-ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions Problems include:
  - Kindergarten: K-ESS3-3, First Grade: 1-PS4-4, Second Grade: 2-LS2-2
- Connections to K-2-ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution include:
  - Second Grade: 2-ESS2-1
Third Grade

The performance expectations in third grade help students formulate answers to questions such as: “What is typical weather in different parts of the world and during different times of the year? How can the impact of weather-related hazards be reduced? How do organisms vary in their traits? How are plants, animals, and environments of the past similar or different from current plants, animals, and environments? What happens to organisms when their environment changes? How do equal and unequal forces on an object affect the object? How can magnets be used?” Third grade performance expectations include PS2, LS1, LS2, LS3, LS4, ESS2, and ESS3 Disciplinary Core Ideas from the NRC Framework. Students are able to organize and use data to describe typical weather conditions expected during a particular season. By applying their understanding of weather-related hazards, students are able to make a claim about the merit of a design solution that reduces the impacts of such hazards. Students are expected to develop an understanding of the similarities and differences of organisms’ life cycles. An understanding that organisms have different inherited traits, and that the environment can also affect the traits that an organism develops, is acquired by students at this level. In addition, students are able to construct an explanation using evidence for how the variations in characteristics among individuals of the same species may provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing. Students are expected to develop an understanding of types of organisms that lived long ago and also about the nature of their environments. Third graders are expected to develop an understanding of the idea that when the environment changes some organisms survive and reproduce, some move to new locations, some move into the transformed environment, and some die. Students are able to determine the effects of balanced and unbalanced forces on the motion of an object and the cause and effect relationships of electric or magnetic interactions between two objects not in contact with each other. They are then able to apply their understanding of magnetic interactions to define a simple design problem that can be solved with magnets. The crosscutting concepts of patterns; cause and effect; scale, proportion, and quantity; systems and system models; interdependence of science, engineering, and technology; and influence of engineering, technology, and science on society and the natural world are called out as organizing concepts for these disciplinary core ideas. In the third grade performance expectations, students are expected to demonstrate grade-appropriate proficiency in asking questions and defining problems; developing and using models, planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, constructing explanations and designing solutions, engaging in argument from evidence, and obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information. Students are expected to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas.
3. Forces and Interactions

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

3-PS2-1. **Plan and conduct an investigation to provide evidence of the effects of balanced and unbalanced forces on the motion of an object.** [Clarification Statement: Examples could include an unbalanced force on one side of a ball can make it start moving; and, balanced forces pushing on a box from both sides will not produce any motion at all.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to one variable at a time: number, size, or direction of forces. Assessment does not include quantitative force size, only qualitative and relative. Assessment is limited to gravity being addressed as a force that pulls objects “down.”]

3-PS2-2. **Make observations and/or measurements of an object’s motion to provide evidence that a pattern can be used to predict future motion.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of motion with a predictable pattern could include a child swinging in a swing, a ball rolling back and forth in a bowl, and two children on a see-saw.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include technical terms such as period and frequency.]

3-PS2-3. **Ask questions to determine cause and effect relationships of electric or magnetic interactions between two objects not in contact with each other.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of an electric force could include the force on hair from an electrically charged balloon and the electrical forces between a charged rod and pieces of paper; examples of a magnetic force could include the force between two permanent magnets, the force between an electromagnet and steel paperclips, and the force exerted by one magnet versus the force exerted by two magnets. Examples of cause and effect relationships could include how the distance between objects affects strength of the force and how the orientation of magnets affects the direction of the magnetic force.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to forces produced by objects that can be manipulated by students, and electrical interactions are limited to static electricity.]

3-PS2-4. **Define a simple design problem that can be solved by applying scientific ideas about magnets.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of problems could include constructing a latch to keep a door shut and creating a device to keep two moving objects from touching each other.]

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

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**Science and Engineering Practices**

- **Asking Questions and Defining Problems**
  - Asking questions and defining problems in grades 3–5 builds on grades K–2 experiences and progresses to specifying qualitative relationships.
    - Ask questions that can be investigated based on patterns such as cause and effect relationships. (3-PS2-3)
    - Define a simple problem that can be solved through the development of a new or improved object or tool. (3-PS2-4)

- **Planning and Carrying Out Investigations**
  - Planning and carrying out investigations to answer questions or test solutions to problems in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to include investigations that control variables and provide evidence to support explanations or design solutions.
    - Plan and conduct an investigation collaboratively to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence, using fair tests in which variables are controlled and the number of trials considered. (3-PS2-1)
    - Make observations and/or measurements to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence for an explanation of a phenomenon or test a design solution. (3-PS2-2)

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**Science Knowledge is Based on Empirical Evidence**

- Science findings are based on recognizing patterns. (3-PS2-2)

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**Scientific Investigations Use a Variety of Methods**

- Science investigations use a variety of methods, tools, and techniques. (3-PS2-1)

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**Disciplinary Core Ideas**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PS2.A: Forces and Motion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Each force acts on one particular object and has both strength and a direction. An object at rest typically has multiple forces acting on it, but they add to give zero net force on the object. Forces that do not sum to zero can cause changes in the object’s speed or direction of motion. (Boundary: Qualitative and conceptual, but not quantitative addition of forces are used at this level.) (3-PS2-1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The patterns of an object’s motion in various situations can be observed and measured; when that past motion exhibits a regular pattern, future motion can be predicted from it. (Boundary: Technical terms, such as magnitude, velocity, momentum, and vector quantity, are not introduced at this level, but the concept that some quantities need both size and direction to be described is developed.) (3-PS2-2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PS2.B: Types of Interactions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Objects in contact exert forces on each other. (3-PS2-1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Electric and magnetic forces between a pair of objects do not require that the objects be in contact. The sizes of the forces in each situation depend on the properties of the objects and their distances apart and, for forces between two magnets, on their orientation relative to each other. (3-PS2-3) (3-PS2-4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Crosscutting Concepts**

- **Patterns**
  - Patterns of change can be used to make predictions. (3-PS2-2)

- **Cause and Effect**
  - Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified. (3-PS2-1)
  - Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified, tested, and used to explain change. (3-PS2-3)

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**Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science**

- Scientific discoveries about the natural world can often lead to new and improved technologies, which are developed through the engineering design process. (3-PS2-4)

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*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.*

April 2013 NGSS Release
3. Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

3-LS2-1. Construct an argument that some animals form groups that help members survive.

3-LS4-1. Analyze and interpret data from fossils to provide evidence of the organisms and the environments in which they lived long ago. [Clarification Statement: Examples of data could include type, size, and distributions of fossil organisms. Examples of fossils and environments could include marine fossils found on dry land, tropical plant fossils found in Arctic areas, and fossils of extinct organisms.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include identification of specific fossils or present plants and animals. Assessment is limited to major fossil types and relative ages.]

3-LS4-3. Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all. [Clarification Statement: Examples of evidence could include needs and characteristics of the organisms and habitats involved. The organisms and their habitat make up a system in which the parts depend on each other.]

3-LS4-4. Make a claim about the merit of a solution to a problem caused when the environment changes and the types of plants and animals that live there may change.* [Clarification Statement: Examples of environmental changes could include changes in land characteristics, water distribution, temperature, food, and other organisms.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to a single environmental change. Assessment does not include the greenhouse effect or climate change.]

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document: A Framework for K-12 Science Education.

Science and Engineering Practices

Analyzing and Interpreting Data
Analyzing data in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to introducing quantitative approaches to collecting data and conducting multiple trials of qualitative observations. When possible and feasible, digital tools should be used.

- Analyze and interpret data to make sense of phenomena using logical reasoning. (3-LS4-1)

Engaging in Argument from Evidence
Engaging in argument from evidence in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to critiquing the scientific explanations or solutions proposed by peers by citing relevant evidence about the natural and designed worlds.

- Construct an argument with evidence, data, and/or a model. (3-LS2-1)
- Construct an argument with evidence. (3-LS4-3)
- Make a claim about the merit of a solution to a problem by citing relevant evidence about how it meets the criteria and constraints of the problem. (3-LS4-4)

Disciplinary Core Ideas

LS2.C: Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience
- When the environment changes in ways that affect a place’s physical characteristics, temperature, or availability of resources, some organisms survive and reproduce, others move to new locations, yet others move into the transformed environment, and some die. (secondary to 3-LS4-4)

LS2.D: Social Interactions and Group Behavior
- Being part of a group helps animals obtain food, defend themselves, and cope with changes. Groups may serve different functions and vary dramatically in size. (Note: Moved from K–2) (3-LS2-1)

LS4.A: Evidence of Common Ancestry and Diversity
- Some kinds of plants and animals that once lived on Earth are no longer found anywhere. (Note: Moved from K–2) (3-LS4-1)
- Fossils provide evidence about the types of organisms that lived long ago and also about the nature of their environments. (3-LS4-1)

LS4.C: Adaptation
- For any particular environment, some kinds of organisms survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all. (3-LS4-3)

LS4.D: Biodiversity and Humans
- Populations live in a variety of habitats, and change in those habitats affects the organisms living there. (3-LS4-4)

Crosscutting Concepts

Cause and Effect
- Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified and used to explain change. (3-LS2-1), (3-LS4-3)

Scale, Proportion, and Quantity
- Observable phenomena exist from very short to very long time periods. (3-LS4-1)

Systems and System Models
- A system can be described in terms of its components and their interactions. (3-LS4-4)

Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science

Interdependence of Science, Engineering, and Technology
- Knowledge of relevant scientific concepts and research findings is important in engineering. (3-LS4-3)

Connections to Nature of Science

Scientific Knowledge Assumes an Order and Consistency in Natural Systems
- Science assumes consistent patterns in natural systems. (3-LS4-1)

Science is a Human Endeavor
- Most scientists and engineers work in teams. (3-LS4-3)

*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.

April 2013 NGSS Release
3. Inheritance and Variation of Traits: Life Cycles and Traits

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

**3-LS1-1. Develop models to describe that organisms have unique and diverse life cycles but all have in common birth, growth, reproduction, and death.** [Clarification Statement: Changes organisms go through during their life form a pattern.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment of plant life cycles is limited to those of flowering plants. Assessment does not include details of human reproduction.]

**3-LS3-1. Analyze and interpret data to provide evidence that plants and animals have traits inherited from parents and that variation of these traits exists in a group of similar organisms.** [Clarification Statement: Patterns are the similarities and differences in traits shared between offspring and their parents, or among siblings. Emphasis is on organisms other than humans.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include genetic mechanisms of inheritance and prediction of traits. Assessment is limited to non-human examples.]

**3-LS3-2. Use evidence to support the explanation that traits can be influenced by the environment.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of the environment affecting a trait could include normally tall plants grown with insufficient water are stunted; and, a pet dog that is given too much food and little exercise may become overweight.]

**3-LS4-2. Use evidence to construct an explanation for how the variations in characteristics among individuals of the same species may provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of cause and effect relationships could be plants that have larger thorns than other plants may be less likely to be eaten by predators; and, animals that have better camouflage coloration than other animals may be more likely to survive and therefore more likely to leave offspring.]

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

### Science and Engineering Practices

**Developing and Using Models**

Modeling in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to building and revising simple models and using models to represent events and design solutions.

- Develop models to describe phenomena. (3-LS1-1)

**Analyzing and Interpreting Data**

Analyzing data in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to introducing quantitative approaches to collecting data and conducting multiple trials of qualitative observations.

- Analyze and interpret data to make sense of phenomena using logical reasoning. (3-LS3-1)

**Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions**

Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to the use of evidence in constructing explanations that specify variables that describe and predict phenomena and in designing multiple solutions to design problems.

- Use evidence (e.g., observations, patterns) to support an explanation. (3-LS3-2)
- Use evidence (e.g., observations, patterns) to construct an explanation. (3-LS4-2)

**Connections to Nature of Science**

**Scientific Knowledge is Based on Empirical Evidence**

- Science findings are based on recognizing patterns. (3-LS1-1)

### Disciplinary Core Ideas

**LS1.B: Growth and Development of Organisms**

- Reproduction is essential to the continued existence of every kind of organism. Plants and animals have unique and diverse life cycles. (3-LS1-1)

**LS3.A: Inheritance of Traits**

- Many characteristics of organisms are inherited from their parents. (3-LS3-1)
- Other characteristics result from individuals’ interactions with the environment, which can range from diet to learning. Many characteristics involve both inheritance and environment. (3-LS3-2)

**LS3.B: Variation of Traits**

- Different organisms vary in how they look and function because they have different inherited information. (3-LS3-1)
- The environment also affects the traits that an organism develops. (3-LS3-2)

**LS4.B: Natural Selection**

- Sometimes the differences in characteristics between individuals of the same species provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing. (3-LS4-2)

### Crosscutting Concepts

**Patterns**

- Similarities and differences in patterns can be used to sort and classify natural phenomena. (3-LS3-1)
- Patterns of change can be used to make predictions. (3-LS1-1)

**Cause and Effect**

- Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified and used to explain change. (3-LS3-2),(3-LS4-2)

*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.

April 2013 NGSS Release
3. Weather and Climate

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

3-ESS2-1. Represent data in tables and graphical displays to describe typical weather conditions expected during a particular season. [Clarification Statement: Examples of data could include average temperature, precipitation, and wind direction.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment of graphical displays is limited to pictographs and bar graphs. Assessment does not include climate change.]

3-ESS2-2. Obtain and combine information to describe climates in different regions of the world.

3-ESS3-1. Make a claim about the merit of a design solution that reduces the impacts of a weather-related hazard.* [Clarification Statement: Examples of design solutions to weather-related hazards could include barriers to prevent flooding, wind resistant roofs, and lighting rods.]

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document A Framework for K-12 Science Education:

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Science and Engineering Practices

**Analyzing and Interpreting Data**
Analyzing data in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to introducing quantitative approaches to collecting data and conducting multiple trials of qualitative observations. When possible and feasible, digital tools should be used.
- Represent data in tables and various graphical displays (bar graphs, pictographs and/or pie charts) to reveal patterns that indicate relationships. (3-ESS2-1)

**Engaging in Argument from Evidence**
Engaging in argument from evidence in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to critiquing the scientific explanations or solutions proposed by peers by citing relevant evidence about the natural and designed world(s).
- Make a claim about the merit of a solution to a problem by citing relevant evidence about how it meets the criteria and constraints of the problem. (3-ESS3-1)

**Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information**
Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to evaluating the merit and accuracy of ideas and methods.
- Obtain and combine information from books and other reliable media to explain phenomena. (3-ESS2-2)

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Disciplinary Core Ideas

**ESS2.D: Weather and Climate**
- Scientists record patterns of the weather across different times and areas so that they can make predictions about what kind of weather might happen next. (3-ESS2-1)
- Climate describes a range of an area's typical weather conditions and the extent to which those conditions vary over years. (3-ESS2-2)

**ESS3.B: Natural Hazards**
- A variety of natural hazards result from natural processes. Humans cannot eliminate natural hazards but can take steps to reduce their impacts. (3-ESS3-1) (Note: This Disciplinary Core Idea is also addressed by 4-ESS2-2.)

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Crosscutting Concepts

**Patterns**
- Patterns of change can be used to make predictions. (3-ESS2-1), (3-ESS2-2)

**Cause and Effect**
- Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified, tested, and used to explain change. (3-ESS3-1)

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Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science

**Influence of Engineering, Technology, and Science on Society and the Natural World**
- Engineers improve existing technologies or develop new ones to increase their benefits (e.g., better artificial limbs), decrease known risks (e.g., seatbelts in cars), and meet societal demands (e.g., cell phones). (3-ESS3-1)

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Connections to Nature of Science

**Science is a Human Endeavor**
- Science affects everyday life. (3-ESS3-1)

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*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.

April 2013
NGSS Release
Fourth Grade

The performance expectations in fourth grade help students formulate answers to questions such as: “What are waves and what are some things they can do? How can water, ice, wind and vegetation change the land? What patterns of Earth’s features can be determined with the use of maps? How do internal and external structures support the survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction of plants and animals? What is energy and how is it related to motion? How is energy transferred? How can energy be used to solve a problem?” Fourth grade performance expectations include PS3, PS4, LS1, ESS1, ESS2, ESS3, and ETS1 Disciplinary Core Ideas from the NRC Framework. Students are able to use a model of waves to describe patterns of waves in terms of amplitude and wavelength, and that waves can cause objects to move. Students are expected to develop understanding of the effects of weathering or the rate of erosion by water, ice, wind, or vegetation. They apply their knowledge of natural Earth processes to generate and compare multiple solutions to reduce the impacts of such processes on humans. In order to describe patterns of Earth’s features, students analyze and interpret data from maps. Fourth graders are expected to develop an understanding that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction. By developing a model, they describe that an object can be seen when light reflected from its surface enters the eye. Students are able to use evidence to construct an explanation of the relationship between the speed of an object and the energy of that object. Students are expected to develop an understanding that energy can be transferred from place to place by sound, light, heat, and electric currents or from object to object through collisions. They apply their understanding of energy to design, test, and refine a device that converts energy from one form to another. The crosscutting concepts of patterns; cause and effect; energy and matter; systems and system models; interdependence of science, engineering, and technology; and influence of engineering, technology, and science on society and the natural world are called out as organizing concepts for these disciplinary core ideas. In the fourth grade performance expectations, students are expected to demonstrate grade-appropriate proficiency in asking questions, developing and using models, planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, constructing explanations and designing solutions, engaging in argument from evidence, and obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information. Students are expected to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas.
4.Energy

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

4-PS3-1. **Use evidence to construct an explanation relating the speed of an object to the energy of that object.** [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include quantitative measures of changes in the speed of an object or on any precise or quantitative definition of energy.]

4-PS3-2. **Make observations to provide evidence that energy can be transferred from place to place by sound, light, heat, and electric currents.** [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include quantitative measurements of energy.]

4-PS3-3. **Ask questions and predict outcomes about the changes in energy that occur when objects collide.** [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the change in the energy due to the change in speed, not on the forces, as objects interact.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include quantitative measures of energy.]

4-PS3-4. **Apply scientific ideas to design, test, and refine a device that converts energy from one form to another.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of devices could include electric circuits that convert electrical energy into motion energy of a vehicle, light, or sound; and, a passive solar heater that converts light into heat. Examples of constraints could include the materials, cost, or time to design the device.] [Assessment Boundary: Devices should be limited to those that convert motion energy to electric energy or use stored energy to cause motion or produce light or sound.]

4-ESS3-1. **Obtain and combine information to describe that energy and fuels are derived from natural resources and their uses affect the environment.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of renewable energy resources could include wind energy, water behind dams, and sunlight; non-renewable energy resources are fossil fuels and fissile materials. Examples of environmental effects could include loss of habitat due to dams, loss of habitat due to surface mining, and air pollution from burning of fossil fuels.]

### Disciplinary Core Ideas

#### PS3.A: Definitions of Energy
- The faster a given object is moving, the more energy it possesses. (4-PS3-1)
- Energy can be moved from place to place by moving objects or through sound, light, or electric currents. (4-PS3-2),(4-PS3-3)

#### PS3.B: Conservation of Energy and Energy Transfer
- Energy is present whenever there are moving objects, sound, light, or heat. When objects collide, energy can be transferred from one object to another, thereby changing their motion. In such collisions, some energy is typically also transferred to the surrounding air; as a result, the air gets heated and sound is produced. (4-PS3-2),(4-PS3-3)
- Light also transfers energy from place to place. (4-PS3-2)
- Energy can also be transferred from place to place by electric currents, which can then be used locally to produce motion, sound, heat, or light. The currents may have been produced to begin with by transforming the energy of motion into electrical energy. (4-PS3-2),(4-PS3-4)

#### PS3.C: Relationship Between Energy and Forces
- When objects collide, the contact forces transfer energy so as to change the objects’ motions. (4-PS3-3)

#### PS3.D: Energy in Chemical Processes and Everyday Life
- The expression “produce energy” typically refers to the conversion of stored energy into a desired form for practical use. (4-PS3-4)

#### ESS3.A: Natural Resources
- Energy and fuels that humans use are derived from natural sources, and their use affects the environment in multiple ways. Some resources are renewable over time, and others are not. (4-ESS3-1)

#### ETS1.A: Defining Engineering Problems
- Possible solutions to a problem are limited by available materials and resources (constraints). The success of a designed solution is determined by considering the desired features of a solution (criteria). Different proposals for solutions can be compared on the basis of how well each one meets the specified criteria for success or how well each takes the constraints into account. (secondary to 4-PS3-4)

### Crosscutting Concepts

#### Cause and Effect
- Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified and used to explain change. (4-ESS3-1)

#### Energy and Matter
- Energy can be transferred in various ways and between objects. (4-PS3-1),(4-PS3-2),(4-PS3-3),(4-PS3-4)

### Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science

#### Interdependence of Science, Engineering, and Technology
- Knowledge of relevant scientific concepts and research findings is important in engineering. (4-ESS3-1)

#### Influence of Science, Engineering, and Technology on Society and the Natural World
- Engineers improve existing technologies or develop new ones. (4-PS3-4)
- Over time, people’s needs and wants change, as do their demands for new and improved technologies. (4-ESS3-1)

### Connections to Nature of Science

#### Science is a Human Endeavor
- Most scientists and engineers work in teams. (4-PS3-4)
- Science affects everyday life. (4-PS3-4)

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*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.*
4.Waves: Waves and Information

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

**4-PS4-1. Develop a model of waves to describe patterns in terms of amplitude and wavelength and that waves can cause objects to move.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of models could include diagrams, analogies, and physical models using wire to illustrate wavelength and amplitude of waves.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include interference effects, electromagnetic waves, non-periodic waves, or quantitative models of amplitude and wavelength.]

**4-PS4-3. Generate and compare multiple solutions that use patterns to transfer information.* [Clarification Statement: Examples of solutions could include drums sending coded information through sound waves, using a grid of 1’s and 0’s representing black and white to send information about a picture, and using Morse code to send text.]

### Disciplinary Core Ideas

**PS4.A: Wave Properties**
- Waves, which are regular patterns of motion, can be made in water by disturbing the surface. When waves move across the surface of deep water, the water goes up and down in place; it does not move in the direction of the wave except when the water meets the beach. *(Note: This grade band endpoint was moved from K–2). (4-PS4-1)*
- Waves of the same type can differ in amplitude (height of the wave) and wavelength (spacing between wave peaks). *(4-PS4-1)*

**PS4.C: Information Technologies and Instrumentation**
- Digitized information transmitted over long distances without significant degradation. High-tech devices, such as computers or cell phones, can receive and decode information—convert it from digitized form to voice—and vice versa. *(4-PS4-3)*

**ETS1.C: Optimizing The Design Solution**
- Different solutions need to be tested in order to determine which of them best solves the problem, given the criteria and the constraints. *(secondary to 4-PS4-3)*

### Crosscutting Concepts

**Patterns**
- Similarities and differences in patterns can be used to sort and classify natural phenomena. *(4-PS4-1)*
- Similarities and differences in patterns can be used to sort and classify designed products. *(4-PS4-3)*

**Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science**

### Science and Engineering Practices

**Developing and Using Models**
Modeling in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to building and revising simple models and using models to represent events and design solutions.
- Develop a model using an analogy, example, or abstract representation to describe a scientific principle. *(4-PS4-1)*

**Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions**
Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to the use of evidence in constructing explanations that specify variables that describe and predict phenomena and in designing multiple solutions to design problems.
- Generate and compare multiple solutions to a problem based on how well they meet the criteria and constraints of the design solution. *(4-PS4-3)*

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*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.

*April 2013 NGSS Release*
4. Structure, Function, and Information Processing

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

**4-PS4-2. Develop a model to describe that light reflecting from objects and entering the eye allows objects to be seen.**  
[Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include knowledge of specific colors reflected and seen, the cellular mechanisms of vision, or how the retina works.]

**4-LS1-1. Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.**  
[Clarification Statement: Examples of structures could include thorns, stems, roots, colored petals, heart, stomach, lung, brain, and skin.]  
[Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to macroscopic structures within plant and animal systems.]

**4-LS1-2. Use a model to describe that animals’ receive different types of information through their senses, process the information in their brain, and respond to the information in different ways.**  
[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on systems of information transfer.]  
[Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include the mechanisms by which the brain stores and recalls information or the mechanisms of how sensory receptors function.]

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Science and Engineering Practices</th>
<th>Disciplinary Core Ideas</th>
<th>Crosscutting Concepts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Developing and Using Models**  | PS4.B: Electromagnetic Radiation  
Modeling in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to building and revising simple models and using models to represent events and design solutions.  
- Develop a model to describe phenomena. (4-PS4-2)  
- Use a model to test interactions concerning the functioning of a natural system. (4-LS1-2)  
**Engaging in Argument from Evidence**  
Engaging in argument from evidence in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to critiquing the scientific explanations or solutions proposed by peers by citing relevant evidence about the natural and designed world(s).  
- Construct an argument with evidence, data, and/or a model. (4-LS1-1)  
| **LS1.A: Structure and Function**  
Plants and animals have both internal and external structures that serve various functions in growth, survival, behavior, and reproduction. (4-LS1-1)  
**LS1.D: Information Processing**  
Different sense receptors are specialized for particular kinds of information, which may be then processed by the animal’s brain. Animals are able to use their perceptions and memories to guide their actions. (4-LS1-2)  | **Cause and Effect**  
- Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified. (4-PS4-2)  
**Systems and System Models**  
- A system can be described in terms of its components and their interactions. (4-LS1-1), (LS1-2) |

Connections to other DCIs in this grade-level: will be available on or before April 26, 2013.

Articulation of DCIs across grade-levels: will be available on or before April 26, 2013.

Common Core State Standards Connections: will be available on or before April 26, 2013.

ELA/Literacy –
Mathematics –

*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.*

April 2013 NGSS Release
4. Earth’s Systems: Processes that Shape the Earth

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

4-ESS1-1. Identify evidence from patterns in rock formations and fossils in rock layers to support an explanation for changes in a landscape over time. [Clarification Statement: Examples of evidence from patterns could include rock layers with shell fossils above rock layers with plant fossils and no shells, indicating a change from water to land over time; and, a canyon with different rock layers in the walls and a river in the bottom, indicating that over time a river cut through the rock.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include specific knowledge of the mechanism of rock formation or memorization of specific rock formations and layers. Assessment is limited to relative time.]

4-ESS1-2. Make observations and/or measurements to provide evidence of the effects of weathering or the rate of erosion by water, ice, wind, or vegetation. [Clarification Statement: Examples of variables to test could include angle of slope in the downhill movement of water, amount of vegetation, speed of wind, relative rate of deposition, cycles of freezing and thawing of water, cycles of heating and cooling, and volume of water flow.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to a single form of weathering or erosion.]

4-ESS2-2. Analyze and interpret data from maps to describe patterns of Earth’s features. [Clarification Statement: Maps can include topographic maps of Earth’s land and ocean floor, as well as maps of the locations of mountains, continental boundaries, volcanoes, and earthquakes.]

4-ESS3-2. Generate and compare multiple solutions to reduce the impacts of natural Earth processes on humans. [Clarification Statement: Examples of solutions could include designing an earthquake resistant building and improving monitoring of volcanic activity.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to earthquakes, floods, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions.]

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document A Framework for K-12 Science Education:

**Science and Engineering Practices**

- **Planning and Carrying Out Investigations**
  - Planning and carrying out investigations to answer questions or test solutions to problems in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to include investigations that control variables and provide evidence to support explanations or design solutions.
  - Make observations and/or measurements to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence for an explanation of a phenomenon. (4-ESS2-1)

- **Analyzing and Interpreting Data**
  - Analyzing data in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to introducing quantitative approaches to collecting data and conducting multiple trials of qualitative observations. When possible and feasible, digital tools should be used.
  - Analyze and interpret data to make sense of phenomena using logical reasoning. (4-ESS2-2)

- **Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions**
  - Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to the use of evidence in constructing explanations that specify variables that describe and predict phenomena and in designing multiple solutions to design problems.
  - Identify the evidence that supports particular points in an explanation. (4-ESS1-1)
  - Generate and compare multiple solutions to a problem based on how well they meet the criteria and constraints of the design solution. (4-ESS3-2)

**Disciplinary Core Ideas**

- **ESS1.C: The History of Planet Earth**
  - Local, regional, and global patterns of rock formations reveal changes over time due to earth forces, such as earthquakes. The presence and location of certain fossil types indicate the order in which rock layers were formed. (4-ESS1-1)

- **ESS2.A: Earth Materials and Systems**
  - Rainfall helps to shape the land and affects the types of living things found in a region. Water, ice, wind, living organisms, and gravity break rocks, soils, and sediments into smaller particles and move them around. (4-ESS2-1)

- **ESS2.B: Plate Tectonics and Large-Scale System Interactions**
  - The locations of mountain ranges, deep ocean trenches, ocean floor structures, earthquakes, and volcanoes occur in patterns. Most earthquakes and volcanoes occur in bands that are often along the boundaries between continents and oceans. Major mountain chains form inside continents or near their edges. Maps can help locate the different land and water features areas of Earth. (4-ESS2-2)

- **ESS2.E: Biogeology**
  - Living things affect the physical characteristics of their regions. (4-ESS2-1)

- **ESS3.B: Natural Hazards**
  - A variety of hazards result from natural processes (e.g., earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions). Humans cannot eliminate the hazards but can take steps to reduce their impacts. (4-ESS3-2) (Note: This Disciplinary Core Idea can also be found in 3.WC.)

- **ETS1.B: Designing Solutions to Engineering Problems**
  - Testing a solution involves investigating how well it performs under a range of likely conditions. (secondary to 4-ESS3-2)

**Crosscutting Concepts**

- **Patterns**
  - Patterns can be used as evidence to support an explanation. (4-ESS1-1, 4-ESS2-1)

- **Cause and Effect**
  - Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified, tested, and used to explain change. (4-ESS1-1, 4-ESS3-2)

- **Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science**

- **Influence of Engineering, Technology, and Science on Society and the Natural World**
  - Engineers improve existing technologies or develop new ones to increase their benefits, to decrease known risks, and to meet societal demands. (4-ESS3-2)

- **Connections to Nature of Science**

- **Scientific Knowledge Assumes an Order and Consistency in Natural Systems**
  - Science assumes consistent patterns in natural systems. (4-ESS1-1)

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*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.

April 2013

NGSS Release
Fifth Grade

The performance expectations in fifth grade help students formulate answers to questions such as: “When matter changes, does its weight change? How much water can be found in different places on Earth? Can new substances be created by combining other substances? How does matter cycle through ecosystems? Where does the energy in food come from and what is it used for? How do lengths and directions of shadows or relative lengths of day and night change from day to day, and how does the appearance of some stars change in different seasons?”

Fifth grade performance expectations include PS1, PS2, PS3, LS1, LS2, ESS1, ESS2, and ESS3 Disciplinary Core Ideas from the NRC Framework. Students are able to describe that matter is made of particles too small to be seen through the development of a model. Students develop an understanding of the idea that regardless of the type of change that matter undergoes, the total weight of matter is conserved. Students determine whether the mixing of two or more substances results in new substances. Through the development of a model using an example, students are able to describe ways the geosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and/or atmosphere interact. They describe and graph data to provide evidence about the distribution of water on Earth. Students develop an understanding of the idea that plants get the materials they need for growth chiefly from air and water. Using models, students can describe the movement of matter among plants, animals, decomposers, and the environment and that energy in animals’ food was once energy from the sun. Students are expected to develop an understanding of patterns of daily changes in length and direction of shadows, day and night, and the seasonal appearance of some stars in the night sky. The crosscutting concepts of patterns; cause and effect; scale, proportion, and quantity; energy and matter; and systems and systems models are called out as organizing concepts for these disciplinary core ideas. In the fifth grade performance expectations, students are expected to demonstrate grade-appropriate proficiency in developing and using models, planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematics and computational thinking, engaging in argument from evidence, and obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information; and to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas.
### 5. Structure and Properties of Matter

**Science and Engineering Practices**

- **Developing and Using Models**
  - Modeling in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to building and revising simple models and using models to represent events and design solutions.
  - Develop a model to describe phenomena. (5-PS1-1)

- **Planning and Carrying Out Investigations**
  - Planning and carrying out investigations to answer questions or test solutions to problems in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to include investigations that control variables and provide evidence to support explanations or design solutions.
  - Conduct an investigation collaboratively to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence, using fair tests in which variables are controlled and the number of trials considered. (5-PS1-4)
  - Make observations and measurements to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence for an explanation of a phenomenon. (5-PS1-3)

- **Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking**
  - Mathematical and computational thinking in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to extending quantitative measurements to a variety of physical properties and using computation and mathematics to analyze data and compare alternative design solutions.
  - Measure and graph quantities such as weight to address scientific and engineering questions and problems.

**Disciplinary Core Ideas**

- **PS1.A: Structure and Properties of Matter**
  - Matter of any type can be subdivided into particles that are too small to see, but even then the matter still exists and can be detected by other means. A model shows that gases are made from matter particles that are too small to see and are moving freely around in space can explain many observations, including the inflation and shape of a balloon; the effects of air on larger particles or objects. (5-PS1-1)
  - The amount (weight) of matter is conserved when it changes form, even in transitions in which it seems to vanish. (5-PS1-2)
  - Measurements of a variety of properties can be used to identify materials. (Boundary: At this grade level, mass and weight are not distinguished, and no attempt is made to define the unseen particles or objects.) (5-PS1-3)

- **PS1.B: Chemical Reactions**
  - When two or more different substances are mixed, a new substance with different properties may be formed. (5-PS1-4)
  - No matter what reaction or change in properties occurs, the total weight of the substances does not change. (Boundary: Mass and weight are not distinguished at this grade level.) (5-PS1-2)

**Crosscutting Concepts**

- **Cause and Effect**
  - Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified, tested, and used to explain change. (5-PS1-4)

- **Scale, Proportion, and Quantity**
  - Natural objects exist from the very small to the immensely large. (5-PS1-1)
  - Standard units are used to measure and describe physical quantities such as weight, time, temperature, and volume. (5-PS1-2), (5-PS1-3)

**Connections to Nature of Science**

- **Scientific Knowledge Assumes an Order and Consistency in Natural Systems**
  - Science assumes consistent patterns in natural systems. (5-PS1-2)

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*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.

April 2013 NGSS Release
5. Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

5-PS3-1. Use models to describe that energy in animals’ food (used for body repair, growth, motion, and to maintain body warmth) was once energy from the sun. [Clarification Statement: Examples of models could include diagrams, and flow charts.]

5-LS1-1. Support an argument that plants get the materials they need for growth chiefly from air and water. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the idea that plant matter comes mostly from air and water, not from the soil.]

5-LS2-1. Develop a model to describe the movement of matter among plants, animals, decomposers, and the environment. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the idea that matter that is not food (air, water, decomposed materials in soil) is changed by plants into matter that is food. Examples of systems could include organisms, ecosystems, and the Earth.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include molecular explanations.]

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document, *A Framework for K-12 Science Education:*

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**Science and Engineering Practices**

**Developing and Using Models**

Modeling in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to building and revising simple models and using models to represent events and design solutions.

- Use models to describe phenomena. (5-PS3-1)
- Develop a model to describe phenomena. (5-LS2-1)

**Engaging in Argument from Evidence**

Engaging in argument from evidence in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to critiquing the scientific explanations or solutions proposed by peers by citing relevant evidence about the natural and designed world(s).

- Support an argument with evidence, data, or a model. (5-LS1-1)

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**Disciplinary Core Ideas**

**PS3.D: Energy in Chemical Processes and Everyday Life**

- The energy released [from] food was once energy from the sun that was captured by plants in the chemical process that forms plant matter (from air and water). (5-PS3-1)

**LS1.C: Organization for Matter and Energy Flow in Organisms**

- Food provides animals with the materials they need for body repair and growth and the energy they need to maintain body warmth and for motion. (secondary to 5-PS3-1)
- Plants acquire their material for growth chiefly from air and water. (5-LS1-1)

**LS2.A: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems**

- The food of almost any kind of animal can be traced back to plants. Organisms are related in food webs in which some animals eat plants for food and other animals eat the animals that eat plants. Some organisms, such as fungi and bacteria, break down dead organisms (both plants or plants parts and animals) and therefore operate as "decomposers." Decomposition eventually restores (recycles) some materials back to the soil. Organisms can survive only in environments in which their particular needs are met. A healthy ecosystem is one in which multiple species of different types are each able to meet their needs in a relatively stable web of life. Newly introduced species can damage the balance of an ecosystem. (5-LS2-1)

**LS2.B: Cycles of Matter and Energy Transfer in Ecosystems**

- Matter cycles between the air and soil and among plants, animals, and microbes as these organisms live and die. Organisms obtain gases, and water, from the environment, and release waste matter (gas, liquid, or solid) back into the environment. (5-LS2-1)

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**Crosscutting Concepts**

**Systems and System Models**

- A system can be described in terms of its components and their interactions. (5-LS2-1)
- Energy and Matter
  - Matter is transported into, out of, and within systems. (5-LS1-1)
  - Energy can be transferred in various ways and between objects. (5-PS3-1)

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*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.*

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### 5. Earth’s Systems

**Science and Engineering Practices**

**Developing and Using Models**
- Modeling in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to building and revising simple models and using models to represent events and design solutions.
  - Develop a model using an example to describe a scientific principle. (5-ESS2.1)

**Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking**
- Mathematical and computational thinking in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to extending quantitative measurements to a variety of physical properties and using computation and mathematics to analyze data and compare alternative design solutions.
  - Describe and graph quantities such as area and volume to address scientific questions. (5-ESS2-2)

**Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information**
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to evaluating the merit and accuracy of ideas and methods.
  - Obtain and combine information from books and/or other reliable media to explain phenomena or solutions to a design problem. (5-ESS3-1)

### Disciplinary Core Ideas

**ESS2.A: Earth Materials and Systems**
- Earth’s major systems are the geosphere (solid and molten rock, soil, and sediments), the hydrosphere (water and ice), the atmosphere (air), and the biosphere (living things, including humans). These systems interact in multiple ways to affect Earth’s surface materials and processes. The ocean supports a variety of ecosystems and organisms, shapes landforms, and influences climate. Winds and clouds in the atmosphere interact with the landforms to determine patterns of weather. (5-ESS2-1)

**ESS2.C: The Roles of Water in Earth’s Surface Processes**
- Nearly all of Earth’s available water is in the ocean. Most fresh water is in glaciers or underground; only a tiny fraction is in streams, lakes, wetlands, and the atmosphere. (5-ESS2-2)

**ESS3.C: Human Impacts on Earth Systems**
- Human activities in agriculture, industry, and everyday life have had major effects on the land, vegetation, streams, ocean, air, and even outer space. But individuals and communities are doing things to help protect Earth’s resources and environments. (5-ESS3-1)

### Crosscutting Concepts

**Scale, Proportion, and Quantity**
- Standard units are used to measure and describe physical quantities such as weight, and volume. (5-ESS2-2)

**Systems and System Models**
- A system can be described in terms of its components and their interactions. (5-ESS2-1), (5-ESS3-1)

**Connections to Nature of Science**
- Science findings are limited to questions that can be answered with empirical evidence. (5-ESS3-1)

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*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.

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5.Space Systems: Stars and the Solar System

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

**5-PS2-1. Support an argument that the gravitational force exerted by Earth on objects is directed down.** [Clarification Statement: “Down” is a local description of the direction that points toward the center of the spherical Earth.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include mathematical representation of gravitational force.]

**5-ESS1-1. Support an argument that the apparent brightness of the sun and stars is due to their relative distances from Earth.** [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to relative distances, not sizes, of stars. Assessment does not include other factors that affect apparent brightness (such as stellar masses, age, stage).]

**5-ESS1-2. Represent data in graphical displays to reveal patterns of daily changes in length and direction of shadows, day and night, and the seasonal appearance of some stars in the night sky.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of patterns could include: the position and motion of Earth with respect to the sun and selected stars that are visible only in particular months.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include causes of seasons.]

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document: *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*.

### Science and Engineering Practices

**Analyzing and Interpreting Data**

Analyzing data in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to introducing quantitative approaches to collecting data and conducting multiple trials of qualitative observations. When possible and feasible, digital tools should be used.

- Represent data in graphical displays (bar graphs, pictographs and/or pie charts) to reveal patterns that indicate relationships. (5-ESS1-2)

**Engaging in Argument from Evidence**

Engaging in argument from evidence in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to critiquing the scientific explanations or solutions proposed by peers by citing relevant evidence about the natural and designed world(s).

- Support an argument with evidence, data, or a model. (5-PS2-1),(5-ESS1-1)

### Disciplinary Core Ideas

**PS2.B: Types of Interactions**

- The gravitational force of Earth acting on an object near Earth’s surface pulls that object toward the planet’s center. (5-PS2-1)

**ESS1.A: The Universe and its Stars**

- The sun is a star that appears larger and brighter than other stars because it is closer. Stars range greatly in their distance from Earth. (5-ESS1-1)

**ESS1.B: Earth and the Solar System**

- The orbits of Earth around the sun and of the moon around Earth, together with the rotation of Earth about an axis between its North and South poles, cause observable patterns. These include day and night; daily changes in the length and direction of shadows; and different positions of the sun, moon, and stars at different times of the day, month, and year. (5-ESS1-2)

### Crosscutting Concepts

**Patterns**

- Similarities and differences in patterns can be used to sort, classify, communicate and analyze simple rates of change for natural phenomena. (5-ESS1-2)

**Cause and Effect**

- Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified and used to explain change. (5-PS2-1)

**Scale, Proportion, and Quantity**

- Natural objects exist from the very small to the immensely large. (5-ESS1-1)

*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.*

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3-5. Engineering Design

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

3-5-ETS1-1. Define a simple design problem reflecting a need or a want that includes specified criteria for success and constraints on materials, time, or cost.

3-5-ETS1-2. Generate and compare multiple possible solutions to a problem based on how well each is likely to meet the criteria and constraints of the problem.

3-5-ETS1-3. Plan and carry out fair tests in which variables are controlled and failure points are considered to identify aspects of a model or prototype that can be improved.

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document: A Framework for K-12 Science Education.

Science and Engineering Practices

- Asking Questions and Defining Problems
  - Asking questions and defining problems in 3–5 builds on grades K–2 experiences and progresses to specifying qualitative relationships.
  - Define a simple design problem that can be solved through the development of an object, tool, process, or system and include several criteria for success and constraints on materials, time, or cost. (3-5-ETS1-1)

- Planning and Carrying Out Investigations
  - Planning and carrying out investigations to answer questions or test solutions to problems in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to include investigations that control variables and provide evidence to support explanations or design solutions.
  - Plan and conduct an investigation collaboratively to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence, using fair tests in which variables are controlled and the number of trials considered. (3-5-ETS1-3)

- Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions
  - Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to the use of evidence in constructing explanations that specify variables that describe and predict phenomena and in designing multiple solutions to design problems.
  - Generate and compare multiple solutions to a problem based on how well they meet the criteria and constraints of the design problem. (3-5-ETS1-2)

Disciplinary Core Ideas

- ETS1.A: Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems
  - Possible solutions to a problem are limited by available materials and resources (constraints). The success of a designed solution is determined by considering the desired features of a solution (criteria). Different proposals for solutions can be compared on the basis of how well each one meets the specified criteria for success or how well each takes the constraints into account. (3-5-ETS1-1)

- ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions
  - Research on a problem should be carried out before beginning to design a solution. Testing a solution involves investigating how well it performs under a range of likely conditions. (3-5-ETS1-2)
  - At whatever stage, communicating with peers about proposed solutions is an important part of the design process, and shared ideas can lead to improved designs. (3-5-ETS1-2)
  - Tests are often designed to identify failure points or difficulties, which suggest the elements of the design that need to be improved. (3-5-ETS1-3)

- ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution
  - Different solutions need to be tested in order to determine which of them best solves the problem, given the criteria and the constraints. (3-5-ETS1-3)

Crosscutting Concepts

- Influence of Science, Engineering, and Technology on Society and the Natural World
  - People’s needs and wants change over time, as do their demands for new and improved technologies. (3-5-ETS1-1)
  - Engineers improve existing technologies or develop new ones to increase their benefits, decrease known risks, and meet societal demands. (3-5-ETS1-2)

Connections to other DCIs in this grade-level: will be available on or before April 26, 2013.

Articulation of DCIs across grade-levels: will be available on or before April 26, 2013.

Connections to 3-5-ETS1.A: Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems include:

- 4th Grade: 4-PS3-4

Connections to 3-5-ETS1.B: Designing Solutions to Engineering Problems include:

- 4th Grade: 4-ESS3-2

Connections to 3-5-ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution include:

- 4th Grade: 4-PS4-3
Middle School Physical Science

Students in middle school continue to develop understanding of four core ideas in the physical sciences. The middle school performance expectations in the Physical Sciences build on the K – 5 ideas and capabilities to allow learners to explain phenomena central to the physical sciences but also to the life sciences and earth and space science. The performance expectations in physical science blend the core ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing useable knowledge to explain real world phenomena in the physical, biological, and earth and space sciences. In the physical sciences, performance expectations at the middle school level focus on students developing understanding of several scientific practices. These include developing and using models, planning and conducting investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematical and computational thinking, and constructing explanations; and to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas. Students are also expected to demonstrate understanding of several of engineering practices including design and evaluation.

The performance expectations in the topic Structure and Properties of Matter help students to formulate an answer to the questions: “How can particles combine to produce a substance with different properties? How does thermal energy affect particles?” by building understanding of what occurs at the atomic and molecular scale. By the end of middle school, students will be able to apply understanding that pure substances have characteristic properties and are made from a single type of atom or molecule. They will be able to provide molecular level accounts to explain states of matters and changes between states. The crosscutting concepts of cause and effect; scale, proportion and quantity; structure and function; interdependence of science, engineering, and technology; and influence of science, engineering and technology on society and the natural world are called out as organizing concepts for these disciplinary core ideas. In these performance expectations, students are expected to demonstrate proficiency in developing and using models, and obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information. Students use these scientific and engineering practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas.

The performance expectations in the topic Chemical Reactions help students to formulate an answer to the questions: “What happens when new materials are formed? What stays the same and what changes?” by building understanding of what occurs at the atomic and molecular scale during chemical reactions. By the end of middle school, students will be able to provide molecular level accounts to explain that chemical reactions involve regrouping of atoms to form new substances, and that atoms rearrange during chemical reactions. Students are also able to apply an understanding of the design and the process of optimization in engineering to chemical reaction systems. The crosscutting concepts of patterns and energy and matter are called out as organizing concepts for these disciplinary core ideas. In these performance expectations, students are expected to demonstrate proficiency in developing and using models, analyzing and interpreting data, and designing solutions. Students use these scientific and engineering practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas.

The performance expectations in the topic Forces and Interactions focus on helping students understand ideas related to why some objects will keep moving, why objects fall to the ground and why some materials are attracted to each other while others are not. Students answer the question, "How can one describe physical interactions between objects and within systems of objects?" At the middle school level, the PS2 Disciplinary Core Idea from the NRC Framework is broken down into two sub-ideas: Forces and Motion and Types of interactions. By the end of
middle school, students will be able to apply Newton’s Third Law of Motion to relate forces to explain the motion of objects. Students also apply ideas about gravitational, electrical, and magnetic forces to explain a variety of phenomena including beginning ideas about why some materials attract each other while other repel. In particular, students will develop understanding that gravitational interactions are always attractive but that electrical and magnetic forces can be both attractive and negative. Students also develop ideas that objects can exert forces on each other even though the objects are not in contact, through fields. Students are also able to apply an engineering practice and concept to solve a problem caused when objects collide. The crosscutting concepts of cause and effect; system and system models; stability and change; and the influence of science, engineering, and technology on society and the natural world serve as organizing concepts for these disciplinary core ideas. In these performance expectations, students are expected to demonstrate proficiency in asking questions, planning and carrying out investigations, and designing solutions, and engaging in argument; and to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas.

The performance expectations in the topic **Energy** help students formulate an answer to the question, “How can energy be transferred from one object or system to another?” At the middle school level, the PS3 Disciplinary Core Idea from the NRC Framework is broken down into four sub-core ideas: Definitions of Energy, Conservation of Energy and Energy Transfer, the Relationship between Energy and Forces, and Energy in Chemical Process and Everyday Life. Students develop their understanding of important qualitative ideas about energy including that the interactions of objects can be explained and predicted using the concept of transfer of energy from one object or system of objects to another, and that that the total change of energy in any system is always equal to the total energy transferred into or out of the system. Students understand that objects that are moving have kinetic energy and that objects may also contain stored (potential) energy, depending on their relative positions in a field. Students will also come to know the difference between energy and temperature, and begin to develop an understanding of the relationship between force and energy. Students are also able to apply an understanding of design to the process of energy transfer. The crosscutting concepts of scale, proportion, and quantity; systems and system models; and energy are called out as organizing concepts for these disciplinary core ideas. These performance expectations expect students to demonstrate proficiency in developing and using models, planning investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, and designing solutions, and engaging in argument from evidence; and to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas in PS3.

The performance expectations in the topic **Waves and Electromagnetic Radiation** help students formulate an answer to the question, “What are the characteristic properties of waves and how can they be used?” At the middle school level, the PS4 Disciplinary Core Idea from the NRC Framework is broken down into Wave Properties, Electromagnetic Radiation, and Information Technologies and Instrumentation. Students are able to describe and predict characteristic properties and behaviors of waves when the waves interact with matter. Students can apply an understanding of waves as a means to send digital information. The crosscutting concepts of patterns and structure and function are used as organizing concepts for these disciplinary core ideas. These performance expectations focus on students demonstrating proficiency in developing and using models, using mathematical thinking, and obtaining, evaluating and communicating information; and to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas.
Middle School Life Sciences

Students in middle school develop understanding of key concepts to help them make sense of the life sciences. These ideas build upon students’ science understanding from earlier grades and from the disciplinary core ideas, science and engineering practices, and crosscutting concepts of other experiences with physical and earth sciences. There are five life science topics in middle school: 1) Structure, Function, and Information Processing, 2) Growth, Development, and Reproduction of Organisms, 3) Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems, 4) Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems, and 5) Natural Selection and Adaptations. The performance expectations in middle school blend core ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing usable knowledge across the science disciplines. While the performance expectations in middle school life science couple particular practices with specific disciplinary core ideas, instructional decisions should include use of many science and engineering practices integrated in the performance expectations. The concepts and practices in the performance expectations are based on the grade-band endpoints described in A Framework for K-12 Science Education (NRC, 2012).

The Performance Expectations in Structure, Function, and Information Processing help students formulate an answer to the question, “How do the structures of organisms contribute to life’s functions?” Middle school students can plan and carry out investigations to develop evidence that living organisms are made of cells and to determine the relationship of organisms to the environment. Students can use understanding of cell theory to develop physical and conceptual models of cells. They can construct explanations for the interactions of systems in cells and organisms and how organisms gather and use information from the environment. By the end of their studies, students understand that all organisms are made of cells, that special structures are responsible for particular functions in organisms, and that for many organisms the body is a system of multiple interacting subsystems that form a hierarchy from cells to the body. Crosscutting concepts of cause and effect, structure and function, and matter and energy are called out as organizing concepts for these core ideas.

The Performance Expectations in Growth, Development, and Reproduction of Organisms help students formulate an answer to the question, “How do organisms grow, develop, and reproduce?” Students understand how the environment and genetic factors determine the growth of an individual organism. They also demonstrate understanding of the genetic implications for sexual and asexual reproduction. Students can develop evidence to support their understanding of the structures and behaviors that increase the likelihood of successful reproduction by organisms. They have a beginning understanding of the ways humans can select for specific traits, the role of technology, genetic modification, and the nature of ethical responsibilities related to selective breeding. At the end of middle school, students can explain how selected structures, functions, and behaviors of organisms change in predictable ways as they progress from birth to old age. Students can use the practices of analyzing and interpreting data, using models, conducting investigations and communicating information. Crosscutting concepts of structure and function, change and stability, and matter and energy flow in organisms support understanding across this topic.
The Performance Expectations in *Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems* help students formulate answers to the questions: “How do organisms obtain and use matter and energy? How do matter and energy move through an ecosystem?” Middle school students can use conceptual and physical models to explain the transfer of energy and cycling of matter as they construct explanations for the role of photosynthesis in cycling matter in ecosystems. They can construct explanations for the cycling of matter in organisms and the interactions of organisms to obtain the matter and energy from the ecosystem to survive and grow. Students have a grade-appropriate understanding and use of the practices of investigations, constructing arguments based on evidence, and oral and written communication. They understand that sustaining life requires substantial energy and matter inputs and the structure and functions of organisms contribute to the capture, transformation, transport, release, and elimination of matter and energy. Adding to these crosscutting concepts is a deeper understanding of systems and system models that ties the performances expectations in this topic together.

The Performance Expectations in *Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems* help students formulate an answer to the question, “How do organisms interact with other organisms in the physical environment to obtain matter and energy? To answer the question, middle school students construct explanations for the interactions in ecosystems and the scientific, economic, political, and social justifications used in making decisions about maintaining biodiversity in ecosystems. Students can use models, construct evidence-based explanations, and use argumentation from evidence. Students understand that organisms and populations of organisms are dependent on their environmental interactions both with other organisms and with nonliving factors. They also understand the limits of resources influence the growth of organisms and populations, which may result in competition for those limited resources. Crosscutting concepts of matter and energy, systems and system models, and cause and effect are used by students to support understanding the phenomena they study.

The Performance Expectations in *Natural Selection and Adaptations* help students formulate answers to the questions: “How does genetic variation among organisms in a species affect survival and reproduction? How does the environment influence genetic traits in populations over multiple generations?” Middle school students can analyze data from the fossil record to describe evidence of the history of life on Earth and can construct explanations for similarities in organisms. They have a beginning understanding of the role of variation in natural selection and how this leads to speciation. They have a grade-appropriate understanding and use of the practices of analyzing graphical displays; using mathematical models; and gathering, reading, and communicating information. The crosscutting concept of cause and effect is central to this topic.
Middle School Earth and Space Sciences

Students in middle school develop understanding of a wide range of topics in Earth and space science (ESS) that build upon science concepts from elementary school through more advanced content, practice, and crosscutting themes. There are six ESS standard topics in middle school: Space Systems, History of Earth, Earth’s Interior Systems, Earth’s Surface Systems, Weather and Climate, and Human Impacts. The content of the performance expectations are based on current community-based geoscience literacy efforts such as the Earth Science Literacy Principles (Wysession et al., 2012), and is presented with a greater emphasis on an Earth Systems Science approach. The performance expectations strongly reflect the many societally relevant aspects of ESS (resources, hazards, environmental impacts) as well as related connections to engineering and technology.

Space Systems: Middle school students can examine the Earth’s place in relation to the solar system, Milky Way galaxy, and universe. There is a strong emphasis on a systems approach, using models of the solar system to explain astronomical and other observations of the cyclic patterns of eclipses, tides, and seasons. There is also a strong connection to engineering through the instruments and technologies that have allowed us to explore the objects in our solar system and obtain the data that support the theories that explain the formation and evolution of the universe.

History of Earth: Students can examine geoscience data in order to understand the processes and events in Earth’s history. Important concepts in this topic are “Scale, Proportion, and Quantity” and “Stability and Change,” in relation to the different ways geologic processes operate over the long expanse of geologic time. An important aspect of the history of Earth is that geologic events and conditions have affected the evolution of life, but different life forms have also played important roles in altering Earth’s systems.

Earth’s Systems: Students understand how Earth’s geosystems operate by modeling the flow of energy and cycling of matter within and among different systems. Students can investigate the controlling properties of important materials and construct explanations based on the analysis of real geoscience data. Of special importance in both topics are the ways that geoscience processes provide resources needed by society but also cause natural hazards that present risks to society; both involve technological challenges, for the identification and development of resources and for the mitigation of hazards.

Weather and Climate: Students can analyze data, including maps, and construct and use models to develop understanding of the factors that control weather and climate. A systems approach is also important here, examining the feedbacks between systems as energy from the sun is transferred between systems and circulates through the ocean and atmosphere.

Human Impacts: Students understand the ways that human activities impacts Earth’s other systems. Students can use many different practices to understand the significant and complex issues surrounding human uses of land, energy, mineral, and water resources and the resulting impacts of their development.
### MS.Structure and Properties of Matter

**Students who demonstrate understanding can:**

**MS-PS1-1.** Develop models to describe the atomic composition of simple molecules and extended structures.  
**Clarification Statement:** Emphasis is on developing models of molecules that vary in complexity. Examples of simple molecules could include ammonia and methanol. Examples of extended structures could include sodium chloride or diamonds. Examples of molecular-level models could include drawings, 3D ball and stick structures or computer representations showing different molecules with different types of atoms.] (Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include valence electrons and bonding energy, discussing the ionic nature of subunits of complex structures, or a complete depiction of all individual atoms in a complex molecule or extended structure.)

**MS-PS1-3.** Gather and make sense of information to describe that synthetic materials come from natural resources and impact society.  
**Clarification Statement:** Emphasis is on natural resources that undergo a chemical process to form the synthetic material. Examples of new materials could include new medicine, foods, and alternative fuels.  
**Assessment Boundary:** Assessment is limited to qualitative information.

**MS-PS1-4.** Develop a model that predicts and describes changes in particle motion, temperature, and state of a pure substance when thermal energy is added or removed.  
**Clarification Statement:** Emphasis is on qualitative molecular-level models of solids, liquids, and gases to show that adding or removing thermal energy increases or decreases kinetic energy of the particles until a change of state occurs. Examples of models could include drawings and diagrams. Examples of particles could include molecules or inert atoms. Examples of pure substances could include water, carbon dioxide, and helium.

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*.

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**Science and Engineering Practices**

**Developing and Using Models**

Modeling in 6–8 builds on K–5 and progresses to developing, using and revising models to describe, test, and predict more abstract phenomena and design systems.

- Develop a model to predict and/or describe phenomena. (MS-PS1-1, MS-PS1-4)

**Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information**

Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information in 6–8 builds on K–5 and progresses to evaluating the merit and validity of ideas and methods.

- Gather, read, and synthesize information from multiple appropriate sources and assess the credibility, accuracy, and possible bias of each publication and methods used, and describe how they are supported or not supported by evidence. (MS-PS1-3)

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**Disciplinary Core Ideas**

**PS1.A: Structure and Properties of Matter**

- Substances are made from different types of atoms, which combine with one another in various ways. Atoms form molecules that range in size from two to thousands of atoms. (MS-PS1-1)
- Each pure substance has characteristic physical and chemical properties (for any bulk quantity under given conditions) that can be used to identify it. (MS-PS1-3) (Note: This Disciplinary Core Idea is also addressed by MS-PS1-2.)
- Gases and liquids are made of molecules or inert atoms that are moving about relative to each other. (MS-PS1-4)
- In a liquid, the molecules are constantly in contact with others; in a gas, they are widely spaced except when they happen to collide. In a solid, atoms are closely spaced and may vibrate in position but do not change relative locations. (MS-PS1-4)
- Solids may be formed from molecules, or they may be extended structures with repeating subunits (e.g., crystals). (MS-PS1-1)
- The changes of state that occur with variations in temperature or pressure can be described and predicted using these models of matter. (MS-PS1-4)

**PS1.B: Chemical Reactions**

- Substances react chemically in characteristic ways. In a chemical process, the atoms that make up the original substances are regrouped into different molecules, and these new substances have different properties from those of the reactants. (MS-PS1-3) (Note: This Disciplinary Core Idea is also addressed by MS-PS1-2 and MS-PS1-5.)

**PS3.A: Definitions of Energy**

- The term “heat” as used in everyday language refers both to thermal motion (the motion of atoms or molecules within a substance) and radiation (particularly infrared and light). In science, heat is used only for this second meaning; it refers to energy transferred when two objects or systems are at different temperatures. (secondary to MS-PS1-4)
- The relationship between the temperature and the total energy of a system depends on the types, states, and amounts of matter present. (secondary to MS-PS1-4)

**Crosscutting Concepts**

**Cause and Effect**

- Cause and effect relationships may be used to predict phenomena in natural or designed systems. (MS-PS1-4)

**Scale, Proportion, and Quantity**

- Time, space, and energy phenomena can be observed at various scales using models to study systems that are too large or too small. (MS-PS1-3)

**Structure and Function**

- Structures can be designed to serve particular functions by taking into account properties of different materials, and how materials can be shaped and used. (MS-PS1-3)

**Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science**

**Interdependence of Science, Engineering, and Technology**

- Engineering advances have led to important discoveries in virtually every field of science, and scientific discoveries have led to the development of entire industries and engineered systems. (MS-PS1-3)

**Influence of Science, Engineering, and Technology on Society and the Natural World**

- The uses of technologies and any limitations on their use are driven by individual or societal needs, desires, and values; by the findings of scientific research; and by differences in such factors as climate, natural resources, and economic conditions. Thus technology use varies from region to region and over time. (MS-PS1-3)

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*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.

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MS. Chemical Reactions

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

**MS-PS1-2. Analyze and interpret data on the properties of substances before and after the substances interact to determine if a chemical reaction has occurred.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of reactions could include burning sugar or steel wool, fat reacting with sodium hydroxide, and mixing zinc with HCl.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to analysis of the following properties: density, melting point, boiling point, solubility, flammability, and odor.]

**MS-PS1-5. Develop and use a model to describe how the total number of atoms does not change in a chemical reaction and thus mass is conserved.** [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on law of conservation of matter, and on physical models or drawings, including digital forms, that represent atoms.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include the use of atomic masses, balancing symbolic equations, or intermolecular forces.]

**MS-PS1-6. Undertake a design project to construct, test, and modify a device that either releases or absorbs thermal energy by chemical processes.** [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the design, controlling the transfer of energy to the environment, and modification of a device using factors such as type and concentration of a substance. Examples of designs could involve chemical reactions such as dissolving ammonium chloride or calcium chloride.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to the criteria of amount, time, and temperature of substance in testing the device.]

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document: A Framework for K-12 Science Education:

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**Science and Engineering Practices**

**Developing and Using Models**
- Modeling in 6–8 builds on K–5 and progresses to developing, using and revising models to describe, test, and predict more abstract phenomena and design systems. (MS-PS1-5)

**Analyzing and Interpreting Data**
- Analyzing data in 6–8 builds on K–5 and progresses to extending quantitative analysis to investigations, distinguishing between correlation and causation, and basic statistical techniques of data and error analysis. (MS-PS1-2)
- Analyze and interpret data to determine similarities and differences in findings. (MS-PS1-2)

**Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions**
- Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to include constructing explanations and designing solutions supported by multiple sources of evidence consistent with scientific knowledge, principles, and theories. (MS-PS1-6)
- Undertake a design project, engaging in the design cycle, to construct and/or implement a solution that meets specific design criteria and constraints. (MS-PS1-6)

**Disciplinary Core Ideas**

**PS1.A: Structure and Properties of Matter**
- Each pure substance has characteristic physical and chemical properties (for any bulk quantity under given conditions) that can be used to identify it. (MS-PS1-2) (Note: This Disciplinary Core Idea is also addressed by MS-PS1-3.)

**PS1.B: Chemical Reactions**
- Substances react chemically in characteristic ways. In a chemical process, the atoms that make up the original substances are regrouped into different molecules, and these new substances have different properties from those of the reactants. (MS-PS1-2), (MS-PS1-5) (Note: This Disciplinary Core Idea is also addressed by MS-PS1-3.)
- The total number of each type of atom is conserved, and thus the mass does not change. (MS-PS1-5)
- Some chemical reactions release energy, others store energy. (MS-PS1-6)

**ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions**
- A solution needs to be tested, and then modified on the basis of the test results, in order to improve it. (secondary to MS-PS1-6)

**ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution**
- Although one design may not perform the best across all tests, identifying the characteristics of the design that performed the best in each test can provide useful information for the redesign process—that is, some of the characteristics may be incorporated into the new design. (secondary to MS-PS1-6)
- The iterative process of testing the most promising solutions and modifying what is proposed on the basis of the test results leads to greater refinement and ultimately to an optimal solution. (secondary to MS-PS1-6)

**Crosscutting Concepts**

**Patterns**
- Macroscopic patterns are related to the nature of microscopic and atomic-level structure. (MS-PS1-2)
- Matter is conserved because atoms are conserved in physical and chemical processes. (MS-PS1-5)
- The transfer of energy can be tracked as energy flows through a designed or natural system. (MS-PS1-6)

**Scientific Knowledge is Based on Empirical Evidence**
- Science knowledge is based upon logical and conceptual connections between evidence and explanations. (MS-PS1-2)

**Science Models, Laws, Mechanisms, and Theories Explain Natural Phenomena**
- Laws are regularities or mathematical descriptions of natural phenomena. (MS-PS1-5)

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*Connections to other topics in this grade-level. Will be available on or before April 26, 2013.
Articulation across grade-levels: Will be available on or before April 26, 2013.
Common Core State Standards Connections: Will be available on or before April 26, 2013.*
MS. Forces and Interactions

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

**MS-PS2-1. Apply Newton’s Third Law to design a solution to a problem involving the motion of two colliding objects.**

[Clarification Statement: Examples of practical problems could include the impact of collisions between two cars, between a car and stationary objects, and between a meteor and a space vehicle.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to vertical or horizontal interactions in one dimension.]

**MS-PS2-2. Plan an investigation to provide evidence that the change in an object’s motion depends on the sum of the forces on the object and the mass of the object.**

[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on balanced (Newton’s First Law) and unbalanced forces in a system, qualitative comparisons of forces, mass and changes in motion (Newton’s Second Law), frame of reference, and specification of units.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to forces and changes in motion in one-dimension in an inertial reference frame, and to change in one variable at a time. Assessment does not include the use of trigonometry.]

**MS-PS2-3. Ask questions about data to determine the factors that affect the strength of electric and magnetic forces.**

[Clarification Statement: Examples of devices that use electric and magnetic forces could include electromagnets, electric motors, or generators. Examples of data could include the effect of the number of turns of wire on the strength of an electromagnet, or the effect of increasing the number or strength of magnets on the speed of an electric motor.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment about questions that require quantitative answers is limited to proportional reasoning and algebraic thinking.]

**MS-PS2-4. Construct and present arguments using evidence to support the claim that gravitational interactions are attractive and depend on the masses of interacting objects.**

[Clarification Statement: Examples of evidence for arguments could include data generated from simulations or digital tools; and charts displaying mass, strength of interaction, distance from the Sun, and orbital periods of objects within the solar system.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include Newton’s Law of Gravitation or Kepler’s Laws.]

**MS-PS2-5. Conduct an investigation and evaluate the experimental design to provide evidence that fields exist between objects exerting forces on each other even though the objects are not in contact.**

[Clarification Statement: Examples of this phenomenon could include the interactions of magnets, electrically-charged strips of tape, and electrically-charged ping balls. Examples of investigations could include first-hand experiences or simulations.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to electric and magnetic fields. Assessment is limited to qualitative evidence for the existence of fields.]

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document A Framework for K-12 Science Education:

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**Science and Engineering Practices**

**Asking Questions and Defining Problems**

- Asking questions and defining problems in grades 6–8 builds from grades K–5 experiences and progresses to specifying relationships between variables, and clarifying arguments and models.
  - Ask questions that can be investigated within the scope of the classroom, outdoor environment, and museums and other public facilities with available resources and, when appropriate, frame a hypothesis based on observations and scientific principles. (MS-PS2-3)

**Planning and Carrying Out Investigations**

- Planning and carrying out investigations to answer questions or test solutions to problems in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to include investigations that use multiple variables and provide evidence to support explanations or design solutions.
  - Plan an investigation individually and collaboratively, and in the design: identify independent and dependent variables and controls, what tools are needed to do the gathering, how measurements will be recorded, and how many data are needed to support a claim. (MS-PS2-2)
  - Conduct an investigation and evaluate the experimental design to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence that can meet the goals of the investigation. (MS-PS2-5)

**Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions**

- Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to include constructing explanations and designing solutions supported by multiple sources of evidence consistent with scientific ideas, principles, and theories.
  - Apply scientific ideas or principles to design an object, tool, process or system. (MS-PS2-1)

**Engaging in Argument from Evidence**

- Engaging in argument from evidence in 6–8 builds from K–5 experiences and progresses to constructing a convincing argument that supports or refutes claims for either explanations or solutions about the natural and designed world.
  - Construct and present oral and written arguments supported by empirical evidence and scientific reasoning to support or refute an explanation or a model for a phenomenon or a solution to a problem. (MS-PS2-4)

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**Disciplinary Core Ideas**

**PS2.A: Forces and Motion**

- For any pair of interacting objects, the force exerted by the first object on the second object is equal in strength to the force that the second object exerts on the first, but in the opposite direction (Newton’s third law). (MS-PS2-1)
- The motion of an object is determined by the sum of the forces acting on it; if the total force on the object is not zero, its motion will change. The greater the mass of the object, the greater the force needed to achieve the same change in motion. For any given object, a larger force causes a larger change in motion. (MS-PS2-2)
- All positions of objects and the directions of forces and motions must be described in an arbitrarily chosen reference frame and arbitrarily chosen units of size. In order to share information with other people, these choices must also be shared. (MS-PS2-2)

**PS2.B: Types of Interactions**

- Electric and magnetic (electromagnetic) forces can be attractive or repulsive, and their sizes depend on the magnitudes of the charges, currents, or magnetic strengths involved and on the distances between the interacting objects. (MS-PS2-3)
- Gravitational forces are always attractive. There is a gravitational force between any two masses, but it is very small except when one or both of the objects have large mass—e.g., Earth and the sun. (MS-PS2-4)
- Forces that act at a distance (electric and magnetic) can be explained by fields that extend through space and can be mapped by their effect on a test object (a ball, a charged object, or a magnet, respectively). (MS-PS2-5)

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**Connections to Nature of Science**

**Scientific Knowledge is Based on Empirical Evidence**

- Science knowledge is based upon logical and conceptual connections between evidence and explanations. (MS-PS2-2), (MS-PS2-4)

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Connections to other topics in this grade-level: Will be available on or before April 26, 2013.

Articulation across grade-levels: Will be available on or before April 26, 2013.

Common Core State Standards Connections: Will be available on or before April 26, 2013.

*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.

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Note: The text is a scan of a page from a document and may contain some visual artifacts or formatting issues that do not affect the readability of the content.
MS.Energy

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

**MS-PS3-1.** Construct and interpret graphical displays of data to describe the relationships of kinetic energy to the mass of an object and to the speed of an object.  
[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on descriptive relationships between kinetic energy and mass separately from kinetic energy and speed. Examples could include riding a bicycle at different speeds, rolling different sizes of rocks downhill, and getting hit by a wiffle ball versus a tennis ball.]

**MS-PS3-2.** Develop a model to describe that when the arrangement of objects interacting at a distance changes, different amounts of potential energy are stored in the system.  
[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on relative amounts of potential energy, not on calculations of potential energy. Examples of objects within systems interacting at varying distances could include: the Earth and either a roller coaster cart at varying positions on a hill or objects at varying heights on shelves, changing the direction/orientation of a magnet, and a balloon with static electrical charge being brought closer to a classmate’s hair. Examples of models could include representations, diagrams, pictures, and written descriptions of systems.]  
[Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to two objects and electric, magnetic, and gravitational interactions.]

**MS-PS3-3.** Apply scientific principles to design, construct, and test a device that either minimizes or maximizes thermal energy transfer.*  
[Clarification Statement: Examples of devices could include an insulated box, a solar cooker, and a Styrofoam cup.]  
[Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include calculating the total amount of thermal energy transferred.]

**MS-PS3-4.** Plan an investigation to determine the relationships among the energy transferred, the type of matter, the mass, and the change in the average kinetic energy of the particles as measured by the temperature of the sample.  
[Clarification Statement: Examples of experiments could include comparing final water temperatures after different masses of ice melted in the same volume of water with the same initial temperature, the temperature change of samples of different materials with the same mass as they cool or heat in the environment, or the same material with different masses when a specific amount of energy is added.]  
[Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include calculating the total amount of thermal energy transferred.]

**MS-PS3-5.** Construct, use, and present arguments to support the claim that when the motion of an object changes, energy is transferred to or from the object.  
[Clarification Statement: Examples of empirical evidence used in arguments could include an inventory or other representation of the energy before and after the transfer in the form of temperature changes or motion of object.]  
[Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include calculations of energy.]

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

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## Science and Engineering Practices

**Developing and Using Models**  
Modeling in 6–8 builds on K–5 and progresses to developing, using and revising models to describe, test, and predict more abstract phenomena and design systems.  
- Develop a model to describe unobservable mechanisms. (MS-PS3-2)

**Planning and Carrying Out Investigations**  
Planning and carrying out investigations to answer questions or test solutions to problems in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to include investigations that use multiple variables and provide evidence to support explanations or design solutions.  
- Plan an investigation individually and collaboratively, and in the design: identify independent and dependent variables and controls, what tools are needed to do the gathering, how measurements will be recorded, and how many data are needed to support a claim. (MS-PS3-4)

**Analyzing and Interpreting Data**  
Analyzing data in 6–8 builds on K–5 and progresses to extending quantitative analysis to investigations, distinguishing between correlation and causation, and basic statistical techniques of data and error analysis.  
- Construct and interpret graphical displays of data to identify linear and nonlinear relationships. (MS-PS3-1)

**Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions**  
Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to include constructing explanations and designing solutions supported by multiple sources of evidence consistent with scientific ideas, principles, and theories.  
- Apply scientific ideas or principles to design, construct, and test a design of an object, tool, process, or system. (MS-PS3-3)

**Engaging in Argument from Evidence**  
Engaging in argument from evidence in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to constructing a convincing argument that supports or refutes claims for either explanations or solutions about the natural and designed worlds.  
- Construct, use, and present oral and written arguments supported by empirical evidence and scientific reasoning to support or refute an explanation or a model for a phenomenon. (MS-PS3-5)

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## Disciplinary Core Ideas

**PS3.A: Definitions of Energy**  
- Motion energy is properly called kinetic energy; it is proportional to the mass of the moving object and grows with the square of its speed. (MS-PS3-1)
- A system of objects may also contain stored (potential) energy, depending on their relative positions. (MS-PS3-2)
- Temperature is a measure of the average kinetic energy of particles of matter. The relationship between the temperature and the total energy of a system depends on the types, states, and amounts of matter present. (MS-PS3-3)

**PS3.B: Conservation of Energy and Energy Transfer**  
- When the motion energy of an object changes, there is inevitably some other change in energy at the same time. (MS-PS3-5)
- The amount of energy transfer needed to change the temperature of a matter sample by a given amount depends on the nature of the matter, the size of the sample, and the environment. (MS-PS3-4)
- Energy is spontaneously transferred out of hotter regions or objects and into colder ones. (MS-PS3-3)

**PS3.C: Relationships Between Energy and Forces**  
- When two objects interact, each one exerts a force on the other that can cause energy to be transferred to or from the object. (MS-PS3-2)

**ETS1.A: Defining and Delimiting an Engineering Problem**  
- The more precisely a design task’s criteria and constraints can be defined, the more likely it is that the designed solution will be successful. Specification of constraints includes consideration of scientific principles and other relevant knowledge that is likely to limit possible solutions. (secondary to MS-PS3-2)

**ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions**  
- A solution needs to be tested, and then modified on the basis of the test results in order to improve it. There are systematic processes for evaluating solutions with respect to how well they meet criteria and constraints of a problem. (secondary to MS-PS3-2)

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## Crosscutting Concepts

- Scale, Proportion, and Quantity  
  - Proportional relationships (e.g. speed as the ratio of distance traveled to time taken) among different types of quantities provide information about the magnitude of properties and processes. (MS-PS3-1),(MS-PS3-4)

- Systems and System Models  
  - Models can be used to represent systems and their interactions – such as inputs, processes, and outputs – and energy and matter flows within systems. (MS-PS3-2)

- Energy and Matter  
  - Energy may take different forms (e.g. energy in fields, thermal energy, energy of motion). (MS-PS3-5)
  - The transfer of energy can be tracked as energy flows through a designed or natural system. (MS-PS3-3)

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Articulation across grade-levels: Will be available on or before April 26, 2013.

Common Core State Standards Connections: Will be available on or before April 26, 2013.

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**MS. Waves and Electromagnetic Radiation**

**Science and Engineering Practices**

**Developing and Using Models**
- Modeling in 6–8 builds on K–5 and progresses to developing, using, and revising models to describe, test, and predict more abstract phenomena and design systems.
  - Develop and use a model to describe phenomena. (MS-PS4-2)

**Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking**
- Mathematical and computational thinking at the 6–8 level builds on K–5 and progresses to identifying patterns in large data sets and using mathematical concepts to support explanations and arguments.
  - Use mathematical representations to describe and/or support scientific conclusions and design solutions. (MS-PS4-1)

**Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information**
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information in 6–8 builds on K–5 and progresses to evaluating the merit and validity of ideas and methods.
  - Integrate qualitative scientific and technical information in written text with that contained in media and visual displays to clarify claims and findings. (MS-PS4-3)

**Connections to Nature of Science**

**Scientific Knowledge is Based on Empirical Evidence**
- Science knowledge is based upon logical and conceptual connections between evidence and explanations. (MS-PS4-1)

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**Disciplinary Core Ideas**

**PS4.A: Wave Properties**
- A simple wave has a repeating pattern with a specific wavelength, frequency, and amplitude. (MS-PS4-1)
- A sound wave needs a medium through which it is transmitted. (MS-PS4-2)

**PS4.B: Electromagnetic Radiation**
- When light shines on an object, it is reflected, absorbed, or transmitted through the object, depending on the object’s material and the frequency (color) of the light. (MS-PS4-2)
- The path that light travels can be traced as straight lines, except at surfaces between different transparent materials (e.g., air and water, air and glass) where the light path bends. (MS-PS4-2)
- A wave model of light is useful for explaining brightness, color, and the frequency-dependent bending of light at a surface between media. (MS-PS4-2)
- However, because light can travel through space, it cannot be a matter wave, like sound or water waves. (MS-PS4-2)

**PS4.C: Information Technologies and Instrumentation**
- Digitized signals (sent as wave pulses) are a more reliable way to encode and transmit information. (MS-PS4-3)

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**Crosscutting Concepts**

**Patterns**
- Graphs and charts can be used to identify patterns in data. (MS-PS4-1)

**Structure and Function**
- Structures can be designed to serve particular functions by taking into account properties of different materials, and how materials can be shaped and used. (MS-PS4-2)
- Structures can be designed to serve particular functions. (MS-PS4-3)

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**Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science**

**Influence of Science, Engineering, and Technology on Society and the Natural World**
- Technologies extend the measurement, exploration, modeling, and computational capacity of scientific investigations. (MS-PS4-3)

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**Connections to Nature of Science**

**Science is a Human Endeavor**
- Advances in technology influence the progress of science and science has influenced advances in technology. (MS-PS4-3)

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MS. Structure, Function, and Information Processing

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

**MS-LS1-1.** Conduct an investigation to provide evidence that living things are made of cells, either one cell or many different numbers and types of cells. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on developing evidence that living things are made of cells, distinguishing between living and non-living cells, and understanding that living things may be made of one cell or many and varied cells.]

**MS-LS1-2.** Develop and use a model to describe the function of a cell as a whole and ways parts of cells contribute to the function. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the cell functioning as a whole system and the primary role of identified parts of the cell, specifically the nucleus, chloroplasts, mitochondria, cell membrane, and cell wall.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment of organelle structure/function relationships is limited to the cell wall and cell membrane. Assessment of the function of the other organelles is limited to their relationship to the whole cell. Assessment does not include the functional behavior of cells or cell parts.]

**MS-LS1-3.** Use argument supported by evidence for how the body is a system of interacting subsystems composed of groups of cells. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the conceptual understanding that cells form tissues and tissues form organs specialized for particular body functions. Examples could include the interaction of subsystems within a system and the normal functioning of those systems.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include the mechanism of one body system independent of others. Assessment is limited to the circulatory, excretory, digestive, respiratory, muscular, and nervous systems.]

**MS-LS1-8.** Gather and synthesize information that sensory receptors respond to stimuli by sending messages to the brain for immediate behavior or storage as memories. [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include mechanisms for the transmission of this information.]

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Science and Engineering Practices</th>
<th>Disciplinary Core Ideas</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Developing and Using Models</strong></td>
<td><strong>LS1.A: Structure and Function</strong></td>
<td><strong>Cause and Effect</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modeling in 6-8 builds on K-5 experiences and progresses to developing, using, and revising models to describe, test, and predict more abstract phenomena and design systems.</td>
<td>• All living things are made up of cells, which is the smallest unit that can be said to be alive. An organism might consist of one single cell (unicellular) or many different numbers and types of cells (multicellular). (MS-LS1-1)</td>
<td>• Cause and effect relationships may be used to predict phenomena in natural systems. (MS-LS1-8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Planning and Carrying Out Investigations</strong></td>
<td>• Within cells, special structures are responsible for particular functions, and the cell membrane forms the boundary that controls what enters and leaves the cell. (MS-LS1-2)</td>
<td><strong>Scale, Proportion, and Quantity</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning and carrying out investigations in 6-8 builds on K-5 experiences and progresses to include investigations that use multiple variables and provide evidence to support explanations or solutions.</td>
<td>• In multicellular organisms, the body is a system of multiple interacting subsystems. These subsystems are groups of cells that work together to form tissues and organs that are specialized for particular body functions. (MS-LS1-3)</td>
<td>• Phenomena that can be observed at one scale may not be observable at another scale. (MS-LS1-1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Engaging in Argument from Evidence</strong></td>
<td><strong>LS1.D: Information Processing</strong></td>
<td><strong>Systems and System Models</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engaging in argument from evidence in 6-8 builds on K-5 experiences and progresses to constructing a convincing argument that supports or refutes claims for either explanations or solutions about the natural and designed world(s).</td>
<td>• Each sense receptor responds to different inputs (electromagnetic, mechanical, chemical), transmitting them as signals that travel along nerve cells to the brain. The signals are then processed in the brain, resulting in immediate behaviors or memories. (MS-LS1-8)</td>
<td>• Systems may interact with other systems; they may have sub-systems and be a part of larger complex systems. (MS-LS1-3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Structure and Function</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information in 6-8 builds on K-5 experiences and progresses to evaluating the merit and validity of ideas and methods.</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Complex and microscopic structures and systems can be visualized, modeled, and used to describe how their function depends on the relationships among its parts, therefore complex natural and designed structures/systems can be analyzed to determine how they function. (MS-LS1-2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Gather, read, and synthesize information from multiple appropriate sources and assess the credibility, accuracy, and possible bias of each publication and methods used, and describe how they are supported or not supported by evidence. (MS-LS1-8)</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Interdependence of Science, Engineering, and Technology</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Connections to other DCIs in this grade-level: will be available on or before April 26, 2013.</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Engineering advances have led to important discoveries in virtually every field of science, and scientific discoveries have led to the development of entire industries and engineered systems. (MS-LS1-1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articulation to DCIs across grade-levels: will be available on or before April 26, 2013.</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Connections to Nature of Science</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Core State Standards Connections: will be available on or before April 26, 2013.</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Science is a Human Endeavor</strong></td>
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<td>• Scientists and engineers are guided by habits of mind such as intellectual honesty, tolerance of ambiguity, skepticism, and openness to new ideas. (MS-LS1-3)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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MS.Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems

Science and Engineering Practices

Developing and Using Models
Modeling in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to developing, using, and revising models to describe, test, and predict more abstract phenomena and design systems.

- Develop a model to describe phenomena. (MS-LS2-3)
- Develop a model to describe unobservable mechanisms. (MS-LS1-7)

Analyzing and Interpreting Data
Analyzing data in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to extending quantitative analysis to investigations, distinguishing between correlation and causation, and basic statistical techniques of data and error analysis.

- Analyze and interpret data to provide evidence for phenomena. (MS-LS2-1)

Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions
Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to include constructing explanations and designing solutions supported by multiple sources of evidence consistent with scientific knowledge, principles, and theories.

- Construct a scientific explanation based on valid and reliable evidence obtained from sources (including the students’ own experiments) and the assumption that theories and laws that describe the natural world operate today as they did in the past and will continue to do so in the future. (MS-LS1-6)

Engaging in Argument from Evidence
Engaging in argument from evidence in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to constructing a convincing argument that supports or refutes claims for either explanations or solutions about the natural and designed world(s).

- Construct an oral and written argument supported by empirical evidence and scientific reasoning to support or refute an explanation or a model for a phenomenon or a solution to a problem. (MS-LS2-4)

Disciplinary Core Ideas

- Plants, algae (including phytoplankton), and many microorganisms obtain the energy from light to make sugars (food) from carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and water through the process of photosynthesis, which also releases oxygen. These sugars can be used immediately or stored for growth or later use. (MS-LS1-6)
- Within individual organisms, food moves through a series of chemical reactions in which it is broken down and rearranged to form new molecules, to support growth, or to release energy. (MS-LS1-7)

LS2.A: Interdependence Relationships in Ecosystems
- Organisms, and populations of organisms, are dependent on their environmental interactions both with other living things and with nonliving factors. (MS-LS2-1)
- In any ecosystem, organisms and populations with similar requirements for food, water, oxygen, or other resources may compete with each other for limited resources, access to which consequently constrains their growth and reproduction. (MS-LS2-1)
- Growth of organisms and population increases are limited by access to resources. (MS-LS2-1)

LS2.B: Cycle of Matter and Energy Transfer in Ecosystems
- Food webs are models that demonstrate how matter and energy is transferred between producers, consumers, and decomposers as the three groups interact within an ecosystem. Transfers of matter into and out of the physical environment occur at every level. Decomposers recycle nutrients from dead plant or animal matter back to the soil in terrestrial environments or to the water in aquatic environments. The atoms that make up the organisms in an ecosystem are cycled repeatedly between the living and nonliving parts of the ecosystem. (MS-LS2-3)

LS2.C: Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience
- Ecosystems are dynamic in nature; their characteristics can vary over time. Disruptions to any physical or biological component of an ecosystem can lead to shifts in all its populations. (MS-LS2-4)

PS3.D: Energy in Chemical Processes and Everyday Life
- The chemical reaction by which plants produce complex food molecules (sugars) requires an energy input (i.e., from sunlight) to occur. In this reaction, carbon dioxide and water combine to form carbon-based organic molecules and release oxygen. (secondary to MS-LS1-6)
- Cellular respiration in plants and animals involves chemical reactions with oxygen that release stored energy. In these processes, complex molecules containing carbon react with oxygen to produce carbon dioxide and other materials. (secondary to MS-LS1-7)

Crosscutting Concepts

Cause and Effect
- Cause and effect relationships may be used to predict phenomena in natural or designed systems. (MS-LS2-1)

Energy and Matter
- Matter is conserved because atoms are conserved in physical and chemical processes. (MS-LS1-7)
- Within a natural system, the transfer of energy drives the motion and/or cycling of matter. (MS-LS1-6)
- The transfer of energy can be tracked as energy flows through a natural system. (MS-LS2-3)

Stability and Change
- Small changes in one part of a system might cause large changes in another part. (MS-LS2-4)

Connections to Nature of Science

Scientific Knowledge Assumes an Order and Consistency in Natural Systems
- Science assumes that objects and events in natural systems occur in consistent patterns that are understandable through measurement and observation. (MS-LS2-3)

Connections to other DCIs in this grade-level: will be available on or before April 26, 2013.

Articulation to DCIs across grade-levels: will be available on or before April 26, 2013.

Common Core State Standards Connections: will be available on or before April 26, 2013.

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### MS.Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

**MS-LS2-2. Construct an explanation that predicts patterns of interactions among organisms across multiple ecosystems.**

[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on predicting consistent patterns of interactions in different ecosystems in terms of the relationships among and between organisms and abiotic components of ecosystems. Examples of types of interactions could include competitive, predatory, and mutually beneficial.]

**MS-LS2-5. Evaluate competing design solutions for maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services.**

[Clarification Statement: Examples of ecosystem services could include water purification, nutrient recycling, and prevention of soil erosion. Examples of design solution constraints could include scientific, economic, and social considerations.]

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K–12 Science Education.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Science and Engineering Practices</th>
<th>Disciplinary Core Ideas</th>
<th>Crosscutting Concepts</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>• Construct an explanation that includes qualitative or quantitative relationships between variables that predict phenomena. (MS-LS2-2)</td>
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<td>• Evaluate competing design solutions based on jointly developed and agreed-upon design criteria. (MS-LS2-5)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LS2.A: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Similarly, predatory interactions may reduce the number of organisms or eliminate whole populations of organisms. Mutually beneficial interactions, in contrast, may become so interdependent that each organism requires the other for survival. Although the species involved in these competitive, predatory, and mutually beneficial interactions vary across ecosystems, the patterns of interactions of organisms with their environments, both living and nonliving, are shared. (MS-LS2-2)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LS2.C: Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Biodiversity describes the variety of species found in Earth’s terrestrial and oceanic ecosystems. The completeness or integrity of an ecosystem’s biodiversity is often used as a measure of its health. (MS-LS2-5)</td>
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<td><strong>LS4.D: Biodiversity and Humans</strong></td>
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<td>• Changes in biodiversity can influence humans’ resources, such as food, energy, and medicines, as well as ecosystem services that humans rely on—for example, water purification and recycling. (MS-LS2-5)</td>
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<td><strong>ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions</strong></td>
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<td>• There are systematic processes for evaluating solutions with respect to how well they meet the criteria and constraints of a problem. (MS-LS2-5)</td>
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<td><strong>Patterns</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Stability and Change</strong></td>
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<td>• Small changes in one part of a system might cause large changes in another part. (MS-LS2-5)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Influence of Science, Engineering, and Technology on Society and the Natural World</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• The use of technologies and any limitations on their use are driven by individual or societal needs, desires, and values; by the findings of scientific research; and by differences in such factors as climate, natural resources, and economic conditions. Thus technology use varies from region to region and over time. (MS-LS2-5)</td>
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<td><strong>Connections to Nature of Science</strong></td>
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<td>• Scientific knowledge can describe consequences of actions but does not make the decisions that society takes. (MS-LS2-5)</td>
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*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.*

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MS.Growth, Development, and Reproduction of Organisms

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

MS-LS1-4. Use evidence to support that changes in organism traits over generations may result from variations caused by selective breeding and genetic drift. (Clarification Statement: Examples of selective breeding include: varieties of wheat that resist fungal infection, breeds of dogs that are good at herding, and plants that are resistant to herbicides. Examples of genetic drift include: the local population of a species that is isolated from the population in a different area and experiences random changes in the frequencies of its traits. The changes may reflect random fluctuations in the population size and how many traits were present in the population. As a population becomes smaller, the genetic diversity decreases.)

MS-LS1-5. Construct and use a mathematical model to describe the causes of observed changes in species that includes variation in the population and the effects of natural selection. (Clarification Statement: Examples of natural selection include: migration patterns change to avoid a habitat affected by a flood, predators become more efficient at catching prey because of improved methods, or environmental changes in a population of fruit flies cause those that are more resistant to pesticide to survive in larger numbers.)

MS-LS2. Use evidence to construct explanations and develop designs for systems and organisms to respond to environmental factors. (Clarification Statement: Examples of how species respond to environmental factors include: birds migrate during winter, and hibernating animals respond to seasonal changes. The response to environmental factors can be physical, physiological, and behavioral. Examples of systems include: a bacterial cell, a poikilothermic organism like a fish, and a habitat. Examples of designs include: artificial reefs, fish ladders, and barrier islands.)

MS-LS3. Evaluate the claims, evidence, and reasoning used to determine the validity of scientific ideas or conclusions. (Clarification Statement: Examples of claims include: the theory of evolution is supported by fossil evidence of animals that vary over time. Examples of evidence include: geological evidence of layers of rock, with the oldest layers at the bottom and the youngest layers at the top. Examples of conclusions include: humans are more closely related to chimpanzees than to gorillas. Examples of reasoning include: if A is true, then B is also true. If A is false, then B is true. If A is false, then B is false.)

MS-LS4. Use mathematical representations to support arguments that support relationships between organizational levels. (Clarification Statement: Examples of arguments include: the human body is organized on multiple levels, such as cell, tissue, organ, system, organ system, body, and organism. As a whole, the organism is greater than the sum of its parts. Examples of relationships include: the large bone in the arm is part of the skeletal system. The skeletal system is also part of the organ system that supports the body.)

Science and Engineering Practices

Developing and Using Models
Modeling in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to developing, using, and revising models to describe, test, and predict more abstract phenomena and design systems.

- Develop and use a model to describe phenomena. (MS-LS3-1, MS-LS3-2)

Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions
Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to include constructing explanations and designing solutions supported by multiple sources of evidence consistent with scientific knowledge, principles, and theories.

- Construct a scientific explanation based on valid and reliable evidence obtained from sources (including the students’ own experiments) and the assumption that theories and laws that describe the natural world operate today as they did in the past and will continue to do so in the future. (MS-LS1-4)

Engaging in Argument from Evidence
Engaging in argument from evidence in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to constructing a convincing argument that supports or refutes claims for either explanations or solutions about the natural and designed world.

- Use an oral and written argument supported by empirical evidence and scientific reasoning to support or refute an explanation or a model for a phenomenon or a solution to a problem. (MS-LS1-4)

Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information
Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to evaluating the merit and validity of ideas and methods.

- Gather, read, and synthesize information from multiple appropriate sources and assess the credibility, accuracy, and possible bias of each publication and methods used, and describe how they are supported or not supported by evidence. (MS-LS4-5)

Disciplinary Core Ideas

LS1.B: Growth and Development of Organisms
- Organisms reproduce, either sexually or asexually, and transfer their genetic information to their offspring. (Secondary to MS-LS2-2)
- Animals engage in characteristic behaviors that increase the odds of reproduction. (MS-LS1-4)
- Plants reproduce in a variety of ways, sometimes depending on animal behavior and specialized features for reproduction. (MS-LS1-4)
- Genetic factors as well as local conditions affect the growth of the adult plant. (MS-LS1-5)

LS3.A: Inheritance of Traits
- Genes are located in the chromosomes of cells, with each chromosome pair containing two variants of each of many distinct genes. Each distinct gene chiefly controls the traits of the individual. Changes (mutations) to genes can result in changes to proteins, which can affect the structures and functions of the organism and thereby change traits. (MS-LS1-3)
- Variations of inherited traits between parent and offspring arise from genetic differences that result from the subset of chromosomes (and therefore genes) inherited. (MS-LS2-2)

LS3.B: Variation of Traits
- In sexually reproducing organisms, each parent contributes half of the genes acquired (at random) by the offspring. Individuals have two of each chromosome and hence two alleles of each gene, one acquired from each parent. These versions may be identical or may differ from each other. (MS-LS2-3)
- In addition to variations that arise from sexual reproduction, genetic information can be altered because of mutations. Though rare, mutations may result in changes to the structure and function of proteins. Some changes are beneficial, others harmful, and some neutral to the organism. (MS-LS3-1)

LS4.B: Natural Selection
- In artificial selection, humans have the capacity to influence certain characteristics of organisms by selective breeding. One can choose desired parental traits determined by genes, which are then passed on to offspring. (MS-LS4-5)

Crosscutting Concepts

Cause and Effect
- Cause and effect relationships may be used to predict phenomena in natural systems. (MS-LS3-2)
- Phenomena may have more than one cause, and some cause and effect relationships in systems can only be described using probability. (MS-LS1-4, MS-LS1-5, MS-LS4-5)

Structure and Function
- Complex and microscopic structures and systems can be visualized, modeled, and used to describe how their function depends on the shapes, composition, and relationships among its parts, therefore complex natural and designed structures/systems can be analyzed to determine how they function. (MS-LS3-1)

Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science

Interdependence of Science, Engineering, and Technology
- Engineering advances have led to important discoveries in virtually every field of science, and scientific discoveries have led to the development of entire industries and engineered systems. (MS-LS4-5)

Connections to Nature of Science

Science Addresses Questions About the Natural and Material World
- Science knowledge can describe consequences of actions but does not make the decisions that society takes. (MS-LS4-5)

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April 2013 NGSS Release
MS.Natural Selection and Adaptations

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

**MS-LS4-1. Analyze and interpret data for patterns in the fossil record that document the existence, diversity, extinction, and change of life forms throughout the history of life on Earth under the assumption that natural laws operate today as in the past.** [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on finding patterns in the level of complexity of anatomical structures in organisms and the chronological order of fossil appearance in the rock layers.][Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include the names of individual species or geological eras in the fossil record.]

**MS-LS4-2. Apply scientific ideas to construct an explanation for the anatomical similarities and differences among modern organisms and between modern and fossil organisms to infer evolutionary relationships.** [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on an explanation of the evolutionary relationships among organisms in terms of similarity or differences of the gross appearance of anatomical structures.]

**MS-LS4-3. Analyze displays of pictorial data to compare patterns of similarities in the embryological development across multiple species to identify relationships not evident in the fully formed anatomy.** [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on inferring general patterns of relatedness among embryos of different organisms by comparing the macroscopic appearance of diagrams or pictures.][Assessment Boundary: Assessment of comparisons is limited to gross appearance of anatomical structures in embryological development.]

**MS-LS4-4. Construct an explanation based on evidence that describes how genetic variations of traits in a population increase some individuals’ probability of surviving and reproducing in a specific environment.** [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on using simple probability statements and proportional reasoning to construct explanations]

**MS-LS4-6. Use mathematical representations to support explanations of how natural selection may lead to increases and decreases of specific traits in populations over time.** [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on using mathematical models, probability statements, and proportional reasoning to support explanations of trends in changes to populations over time.][Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include Hardy-Weinberg calculations.]

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

**Science and Engineering Practices**
- **Analyzing and Interpreting Data**
  - Analyzing data in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to extending quantitative analysis to investigations, distinguishing between correlation and causation, and basic statistical techniques of data and error analysis.
    - Analyze displays of data to identify linear and nonlinear relationships. (MS-LS4-3)
    - Analyze and interpret data to determine similarities and differences in findings. (MS-LS4-1)

- **Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking**
  - Mathematical and computational thinking in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to identifying patterns in large data sets and using mathematical concepts to support explanations and arguments.
  - Use mathematical representations to support scientific conclusions and design solutions. (MS-LS4-6)

- **Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions**
  - Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to include constructing explanations and designing solutions supported by multiple sources of evidence consistent with scientific ideas, principles, and theories.
  - Apply scientific ideas to construct an explanation for real-world phenomena, examples, or events. (MS-LS4-2)
  - Construct an explanation that includes qualitative or quantitative relationships between variables that describe phenomena. (MS-LS4-4)

**Disciplinary Core Ideas**

- **LS4.A: Evidence of Common Ancestry and Divergence**
  - The collection of fossils and their placement in chronological order (e.g., through the location of the sedimentary layers in which they are found or through radioactive dating) is known as the fossil record. It documents the existence, diversity, extinction, and change of many life forms throughout the history of life on Earth. (MS-LS4-1)
  - Anatomical similarities and differences between various organisms living today and between them and organisms in the fossil record, enable the reconstruction of evolutionary history and the inference of lines of evolutionary descent. (MS-LS4-2)
  - Comparison of the embryological development of different species also reveals similarities that show relationships not evident in the fully-formed anatomy. (MS-LS4-3)

- **LS4.B: Natural Selection**
  - Natural selection leads to the predominance of certain traits in a population, and the suppression of others. (MS-LS4-4)

- **LS4.C: Adaptation**
  - Adaptation by natural selection acting over generations is one important process by which species change over time in response to changes in environmental conditions. Traits that support successful survival and reproduction in the new environment become more common; those that do not become less common. Thus, the distribution of traits in a population changes. (MS-LS4-6)

**Crosscutting Concepts**

- **Patterns**
  - Patterns can be used to identify cause and effect relationships. (MS-LS4-2)
  - Graphs, charts, and images can be used to identify patterns in data. (MS-LS4-1), (MS-LS4-3)

- **Cause and Effect**
  - Phenomena may have more than one cause, and some cause and effect relationships in systems can only be described using probability. (MS-LS4-4), (MS-LS4-6)

**Connections to Nature of Science**

- **Scientific Knowledge Assumes an Order and Consistency in Natural Systems**
  - Science assumes that objects and events in natural systems occur in consistent patterns that are understandable through measurement and observation. (MS-LS4-1), (MS-LS4-2)

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Connections to other topics in this grade-level will be available on or before April 26, 2013.
Articulation across grade-level will be available on or before April 26, 2013.
Common Core State Standards Connections: will be available on or before April 26, 2013.
**MS.Space Systems**

**Science and Engineering Practices**

**Developing and Using Models**
Modeling in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to developing, using, and revising models to describe, test, and predict more abstract phenomena and design systems.

- Develop and use a model to describe phenomena. (MS-ESS1-1), (MS-ESS1-2)

**Analyzing and Interpreting Data**
Analyzing data in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to extending quantitative analysis to investigations, distinguishing between correlation and causation, and basic statistical techniques of data and error analysis.

- Analyze and interpret data to determine similarities and differences in findings. (MS-ESS1-3)

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**Disciplinary Core Ideas**

**ESS1.A: The Universe and Its Stars**

- Patterns of the apparent motion of the sun, the moon, and stars in the sky can be observed, described, predicted, and explained with models. (MS-ESS1-1)
- Earth and its solar system are part of the Milky Way galaxy, which is one of many galaxies in the universe. (MS-ESS1-2)

**ESS1.B: Earth and the Solar System**

- The solar system consists of the sun and a collection of objects, including planets, their moons, and asteroids that are held in orbit around the sun by its gravitational pull on them. (MS-ESS1-2), (MS-ESS1-3)
- This model of the solar system can explain eclipses of the sun and the moon. Earth’s spin axis is fixed in direction but tilted relative to its orbit around the sun. The seasons are a result of that tilt and are caused by the differential intensity of sunlight on different areas of Earth across the year. (MS-ESS1-1)
- The solar system appears to have formed from a disk of dust and gas, drawn together by gravity. (MS-ESS1-2)

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**Crosscutting Concepts**

**Patterns**

- Patterns can be used to identify cause and effect relationships. (MS-ESS1-1)

**Scale, Proportion, and Quantity**

- Time, space, and energy phenomena can be observed at various scales using models to study systems that are too large or too small. (MS-ESS1-3)

**Systems and System Models**

- Models can be used to represent systems and their interactions. (MS-ESS1-2)

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**Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science**

**Interdependence of Science, Engineering, and Technology**

- Engineering advances have led to important discoveries in virtually every field of science and scientific discoveries have led to the development of entire industries and engineered systems. (MS-ESS1-3)

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**Connections to Nature of Science**

**Scientific Knowledge Assumes an Order and Consistency in Natural Systems**

- Science assumes that objects and events in natural systems occur in consistent patterns that are understandable through measurement and observation. (MS-ESS1-1), (MS-ESS1-2)

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April 2013 NGSS Release
MS.History of Earth

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

**MS-ESS1-4. Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence from rock strata for how the geologic time scale is used to organize Earth’s 4.6-billion-year-old history.** [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on how analyses of rock formations and the fossils they contain are used to establish relative ages of major events in Earth’s history. Examples of Earth’s major events could range from being very recent (such as the last Ice Age or the earliest fossils of homo sapiens) to very old (such as the formation of Earth or the earliest evidence of life). Examples can include the formation of mountain chains and ocean basins, the evolution or extinction of particular living organisms, or significant volcanic eruptions.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include recalling the names of specific periods or epochs and events within them.]

**MS-ESS2-2. Construct an explanation based on evidence for how geoscience processes have changed Earth’s surface at varying time and spatial scales.** [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on how processes change Earth’s surface at time and spatial scales that can be large (such as slow plate motions or the uplift of large mountain ranges) or small (such as rapid landslides or microscopic geochemical reactions), and how many geoscience processes (such as earthquakes, volcanoes, and meteor impacts) usually behave gradually but are punctuated by catastrophic events. Examples of geoscience processes include surface weathering and deposition by the movements of water, ice, and wind. Emphasis is on geoscience processes that shape local geographic features, where appropriate.]

**MS-ESS2-3. Analyze and interpret data on the distribution of fossils and rocks, continental shapes, and seafloor structures to provide evidence of the past plate motions.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of data include similarities of rock and fossil types on different continents, the shapes of the continents (including continental shelves), and the locations of ocean structures (such as ridges, fracture zones, and trenches).] [Assessment Boundary: Paleomagnetic anomalies in oceanic and continental crust are not assessed.]

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education:*

- **Analyzing and Interpreting Data**
  - Analyzing data in K-5 builds on K-5 and progresses to extending quantitative analysis to investigations, distinguishing between correlation and causation, and basic statistical techniques of data and error analysis.
  - Analyze and interpret data to provide evidence for phenomena. (MS-ESS2-3)

- **Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions**
  - Constructing explanations and designing solutions in K-5 builds on K-5 experiences and progresses to include constructing explanations and designing solutions supported by multiple sources of evidence consistent with scientific ideas, principles, and theories.
  - Construct a scientific explanation based on valid and reliable evidence obtained from sources (including the students’ own experiments) and the assumption that theories and laws that describe the natural world operate today as they did in the past and will continue to do so in the future. (MS-ESS1-4), (MS-ESS2-2)

- **Crosscutting Concepts**
  - Patterns
    - Patterns in rates of change and other numerical relationships can provide information about natural and human designed systems. (MS-ESS2-3)
  - Scale, Proportion, and Quantity
    - Time, space, and energy phenomena can be observed at various scales using models to study systems that are too large or too small. (MS-ESS1-4), (MS-ESS2-2)

- **Disciplinary Core Ideas**
  - **ESS1.C: The History of Planet Earth**
    - The geologic time scale interpreted from rock strata provides a way to organize Earth's history. Analyses of rock strata and the fossil record provide only relative dates, not an absolute scale. (MS-ESS1-4)
    - Tectonic processes continually generate new ocean sea floor at ridges and destroy old sea floor at trenches. (HS-ESS1.C GBE) (secondary to MS-ESS2-3)
  - **ESS2.A: Earth's Materials and Systems**
    - The planet's systems interact over scales that range from microscopic to global in size, and they operate over fractions of a second to billions of years. These interactions have shaped Earth's history and will determine its future. (MS-ESS2-2)
  - **ESS2.B: Plate Tectonics and Large-Scale System Interactions**
    - Maps of ancient land and water patterns, based on investigations of rocks and fossils, make clear how Earth’s plates have moved great distances, collided, and spread apart. (MS-ESS2-3)
  - **ESS2.C: The Roles of Water in Earth’s Surface Processes**
    - Water’s movements—both on the land and underground—cause weathering and erosion, which change the land’s surface features and create underground formations. (MS-ESS2-2)

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April 2013 NGSS Release
MS.Earth’s Systems

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

**MS-ESS2-1. Develop a model to describe the cycling of Earth’s materials and the flow of energy that drives this process.**

[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the processes of melting, crystallization, weathering, deformation, and sedimentation, which act together to form minerals and rocks through the cycling of Earth’s materials.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include the identification and naming of minerals.]

**MS-ESS2-4. Develop a model to describe the cycling of water through Earth’s systems driven by energy from the sun and the force of gravity.**

[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the ways water changes its state as it moves through the multiple pathways of the hydrologic cycle. Examples of models can be conceptual or physical.] [Assessment Boundary: A quantitative understanding of the latent heats of vaporization and fusion is not assessed.]

**MS-ESS3-1. Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence for how the uneven distributions of Earth’s mineral, energy, and groundwater resources are the result of past and current geoscience processes.**

[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on how these resources are limited and typically non-renewable, and how their distributions are significantly changing as a result of removal by humans. Examples of uneven distributions of resources as a result of past processes include but are not limited to petroleum (locations of the burial of organic marine sediments and subsequent geologic traps), metal ores (locations of past volcanic and hydrothermal activity associated with subduction zones), and soil (locations of active weathering and/or deposition of rock).]

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document: *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*

### Science and Engineering Practices

**Developing and Using Models**

- Modeling in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to developing, using, and revising models to describe, test, and predict more abstract phenomena and design systems.
  - Develop and use a model to describe phenomena. (MS-ESS2-1)
  - Develop a model to describe unobservable mechanisms. (MS-ESS2-4)

**Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions**

- Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to include constructing explanations and designing solutions supported by multiple sources of evidence consistent with scientific ideas, principles, and theories.
  - Construct a scientific explanation based on valid and reliable evidence obtained from sources (including the students’ own experiments) and the assumption that theories and laws that describe the natural world operate today as they did in the past and will continue to do so in the future. (MS-ESS3-1)

### Disciplinary Core Ideas

**ESS2.A: Earth’s Materials and Systems**

- All Earth processes are the result of energy flowing and matter cycling within and among the planet’s systems. This energy is derived from the sun and Earth’s hot interior. The energy that flows and matter that cycles produce chemical and physical changes in Earth’s materials and living organisms. (MS-ESS2-1)

**ESS2.C: The Roles of Water in Earth’s Surface Processes**

- Water continually cycles among land, ocean, and atmosphere via transpiration, evaporation, condensation and crystallization, and precipitation, as well as downhill flows on land. (MS-ESS2-4)
  - Global movements of water and its changes in form are propelled by sunlight and gravity. (MS-ESS2-4)

**ESS3.A: Natural Resources**

- Humans depend on Earth’s land, ocean, atmosphere, and biosphere for many different resources. Minerals, fresh water, and biosphere resources are limited, and many are not renewable or replaceable over human lifetimes. These resources are distributed unevenly around the planet as a result of past geologic processes. (MS-ESS3-1)

### Crosscutting Concepts

**Cause and Effect**

- Cause and effect relationships may be used to predict phenomena in natural or designed systems. (MS-ESS3-1)

**Energy and Matter**

- Within a natural or designed system, the transfer of energy drives the motion and/or cycling of matter. (MS-ESS2-4)

**Stability and Change**

- Explanations of stability and change in natural or designed systems can be constructed by examining the changes over time and processes at different scales, including the atomic scale. (MS-ESS2-1)

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**Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science**

**Influence of Science, Engineering, and Technology on Society and the Natural World**

- All human activity draws on natural resources and has both short and long-term consequences, positive as well as negative, for the health of people and the natural environment. (MS-ESS3-1)

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April 2013 NGSS Release
### MS.Weather and Climate

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

#### MS-ESS2-5. Collect data to provide evidence for how the motions and complex interactions of air masses results in changes in weather conditions. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on how air masses flow from regions of high pressure to low pressure, causing weather (defined by temperature, pressure, humidity, precipitation, and wind) at a fixed location to change over time, and how sudden changes in weather can result when different air masses collide. Emphasis is on how weather can be predicted within probabilistic ranges. Examples of data can be provided to students (such as weather maps, diagrams, and visualizations) or obtained through laboratory experiments (such as with condensation).] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include recalling the names of cloud types or weather symbols used on weather maps or the reported diagrams from weather stations.]

#### MS-ESS2-6. Develop and use a model to describe how unequal heating and rotation of the Earth cause patterns of atmospheric and oceanic circulation that determine regional climates. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on how patterns vary by latitude, altitude, and geographic land distribution. Emphasis of atmospheric circulation is on the sunlight-driven latitudinal banding, the Coriolis effect, and resulting prevailing winds; emphasis of ocean circulation is on the transfer of heat by the global ocean convection cycle, which is constrained by the Coriolis effect and the outlines of continents. Examples of models can be diagrams, maps, and globes, or digital representations.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include the dynamics of the Coriolis effect.]

#### MS-ESS3-5. Ask questions to clarify evidence of the factors that have caused the rise in global temperatures over the past century. [Clarification Statement: Examples of factors include human activities (such as fossil fuel combustion, cement production, and agricultural activity) and natural processes (such as changes in incoming solar radiation or volcanic activity). Examples of evidence can include tables, graphs, and maps of global and regional temperatures, atmospheric levels of gases such as carbon dioxide and methane, and the rates of human activities. Emphasis is on the major role that human activities play in causing the rise in global temperatures.]

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### Science and Engineering Practices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asking Questions and Defining Problems</th>
<th>Disciplinary Core Ideas</th>
<th>Crosscutting Concepts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Asking questions and defining problems in 6-8 builds on K-5 experiences and progresses to specifying relationships between variables, clarify arguments and models. | **ESS2.C: The Roles of Water in Earth’s Surface Processes**  
- The complex patterns of the changes and the movement of water in the atmosphere, determined by winds, landforms, and ocean temperatures and currents, are major determinants of local weather patterns. (MS-ESS2-5)  
- Variations in density due to variations in temperature and salinity drive a global pattern of interconnected ocean currents. (MS-ESS2-6)  
**ESS2.D: Weather and Climate**  
- Weather and climate are influenced by interactions involving sunlight, the ocean, the atmosphere, ice, landforms, and living things. These interactions vary with latitude, altitude, and local and regional geography, all of which can affect oceanic and atmospheric flow patterns. (MS-ESS2-6)  
- Because these patterns are so complex, weather can only be predicted probabilistically. (MS-ESS2-5)  
- The ocean exerts a major influence on weather and climate by absorbing energy from the sun, releasing it over time, and globally redistributing it through ocean currents. (MS-ESS2-6)  
**ESS3.D: Global Climate Change**  
- Human activities, such as the release of greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels, are major factors in the current rise in Earth’s mean surface temperature (global warming). Reducing the level of climate change and reducing human vulnerability to whatever climate changes do occur depend on the understanding of climate science, engineering capabilities, and other kinds of knowledge, such as understanding of human behavior and on applying that knowledge wisely in decisions and activities. (MS-ESS3-5) |
| **Cause and Effect**  
- Cause and effect relationships may be used to predict phenomena in natural or designed systems. (MS-ESS2-5)  
**Systems and System Models**  
- Models can be used to represent systems and their interactions—such as inputs, processes and outputs—and energy, matter, and information flows within systems. (MS-ESS2-6)  
**Stability and Change**  
- Stability might be disturbed either by sudden events or gradual changes that accumulate over time. (MS-ESS3-5) |

### Articulation of DCIs across grade-levels:

- **Common Core State Standards Connections:** will be available on or before April 26, 2013.
- **ELA/Literacy – Mathematics –**

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*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.*
MS.Human Impacts

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

**MS-ESS3-2. Analyze and interpret data on natural hazards to forecast future catastrophic events and inform the development of technologies to mitigate their effects.**  [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on how some natural hazards, such as volcanic eruptions and severe weather, are preceded by phenomena that allow for reliable predictions, but others, such as earthquakes, occur suddenly and with no notice, and thus are not yet predictable. Examples of natural hazards can be taken from interior processes (such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions), surface processes (such as mass wasting and tsunamis), or severe weather events (such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods). Examples of data can include the locations, magnitudes, and frequencies of the natural hazards. Examples of technologies can be global (such as satellite systems to monitor hurricanes or forest fires) or local (such as building basements in tornado-prone regions or reservoirs to mitigate droughts).]

**MS-ESS3-3. Apply scientific principles to design a method for monitoring and minimizing a human impact on the environment.**  [Clarification Statement: Examples of the design process include examining human environmental impacts, assessing the kinds of solutions that are feasible, and designing and evaluating solutions that could reduce that impact. Examples of human impacts can include water usage (such as the withdrawal of water from streams and aquifers or the construction of dams and levees), land usage (such as urban development, agriculture, or the removal of wetlands), and pollution (such as of the air, water, or land).]

**MS-ESS3-4. Construct an argument supported by evidence for how increases in human population and per-capita consumption of natural resources impact Earth’s systems.**  [Clarification Statement: Examples of evidence include grade-appropriate databases on human populations and the rates of consumption of food and natural resources (such as freshwater, mineral, and energy). Examples of impacts can include changes to the appearance, composition, and structure of Earth's systems as well as the rates at which they change. The consequences of increases in human populations and consumption of natural resources are described by science, but science does not make the decisions for the actions society takes.]

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disciplinary Core Ideas</th>
<th>Crosscutting Concepts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ESS3.B: Natural Hazards</strong></td>
<td><strong>Patterns</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mapping the history of natural hazards in a region, combined with an understanding of related geologic forces can help forecast the locations and likelihoods of future events. (MS-ESS3-2)</td>
<td>Graphs, charts, and images can be used to identify patterns in data. (MS-ESS3-2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ESS3.C: Human Impacts on Earth Systems</strong></td>
<td><strong>Cause and Effect</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human activities have significantly altered the biosphere, sometimes damaging or destroying natural habitats and causing the extinction of other species. But changes to Earth’s environments can have different impacts (negative and positive) for different living things. (MS-ESS3-3)</td>
<td>Causes and effect relationships may be used to predict phenomena in natural or designed systems. (MS-ESS3-4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typically as human populations and per-capita consumption of natural resources increase, so do the negative impacts on Earth unless the activities and technologies involved are engineered otherwise. (MS-ESS3-3),(MS-ESS3-4)</td>
<td><strong>Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Influence of Science, Engineering, and Technology on Society and the Natural World** |
- All human activity draws on natural resources and has both short and long-term consequences, positive as well as negative, for the health of people and the natural environment. (MS-ESS3-4) |
- The uses of technologies and limitations on their use are driven by people’s needs, desires, and values; by the findings of scientific research; and by differences in such factors as climate, natural resources, and economic conditions. Thus technology use varies from region to region and over time. (MS-ESS3-2),(MS-ESS3-3) |

**Science Addresses Questions About the Natural and Material World** |
- Science knowledge can describe consequences of actions but does not make the decisions that society takes. (MS-ESS3-4) |

Connections to other DCIs in this grade-level: will be available on or before April 26, 2013.

Articulation of DCIs across grade-levels: will be available on or before April 26, 2013.

Common Core State Standards Connections: will be available on or before April 26, 2013.

ELA/Literacy –
Mathematics –

*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.*
MS. Engineering Design

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

**MS-ETS1-1.** Define the criteria and constraints of a design problem with sufficient precision to ensure a successful solution, taking into account relevant scientific principles and potential impacts on people and the natural environment that may limit possible solutions.

**MS-ETS1-2.** Evaluate competing design solutions using a systematic process to determine how well they meet the criteria and constraints of the problem.

**MS-ETS1-3.** Analyze data from tests to determine similarities and differences among several design solutions to identify the best characteristics of each that can be combined into a new solution to better meet the criteria for success.

**MS-ETS1-4.** Develop a model to generate data for iterative testing and modification of a proposed object, tool, or process such that an optimal design can be achieved.

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Science and Engineering Practices</th>
<th>Disciplinary Core Ideas</th>
<th>Crosscutting Concepts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Asking Questions and Defining Problems</strong></td>
<td><strong>ETS1.A: Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asking questions and defining problems in grades 6–8 builds on grades K–5 experiences and progresses to specifying relationships between variables, clarify arguments and models.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Define a design problem that can be solved through the development of an object, tool, process or system and includes multiple criteria and constraints, including scientific knowledge that may limit possible solutions. (MS-ETS1-1)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Developing and Using Models</strong></td>
<td><strong>ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modeling in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to developing, using, and revising models to describe, test, and predict more abstract phenomena and design systems.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Develop a model to generate data to test ideas about designed systems, including those representing inputs and outputs. (MS-ETS1-4)</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Analyzing and Interpreting Data</strong></td>
<td><strong>ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analyzing data in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to extending quantitative analysis to investigations, distinguishing between correlation and causation, and basic statistical techniques of data and error analysis.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Analyze and interpret data to determine similarities and differences in findings. (MS-ETS1-3)</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Engaging in Argument from Evidence</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engaging in argument from evidence in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to constructing a convincing argument that supports or refutes claims for either explanations or solutions about the natural and designed world.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Evaluate competing design solutions based on jointly developed and agreed-upon design criteria. (MS-ETS1-2)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Connections to other DCIs in this grade-level: will be available on or before April 26, 2013.

Articulation of DCIs across grade-levels: will be available on or before April 26, 2013.

Connections to MS-ETS1.A: Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems include:

**Physical Science:** MS-PS3-3

Connections to MS-ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions Problems include:

**Physical Science:** MS-PS1-6, MS-PS3-3, **Life Science:** MS-LS2-5

Connections to MS-ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution include:

**Physical Science:** MS-PS1-6

April 2013 NGSS Release
High School Physical Sciences

Students in high school continue to develop their understanding of the four core ideas in the physical sciences. These ideas include the most fundamental concepts from chemistry and physics, but are intended to leave room for expanded study in upper-level high school courses. The high school performance expectations in Physical Science build on the middle school ideas and skills and allow high school students to explain more in-depth phenomena central not only to the physical sciences, but to life and earth and space sciences as well. These performance expectations blend the core ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing useable knowledge to explain ideas across the science disciplines. In the physical science performance expectations at the high school level, there is a focus on several scientific practices. These include developing and using models, planning and conducting investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematical and computational thinking, and constructing explanations; and to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas. Students are also expected to demonstrate understanding of several engineering practices, including design and evaluation.

The performance expectations in the topic **Structure and Properties of Matter** help students formulate an answer to the question, “How can one explain the structure and properties of matter?” Two sub-ideas from the *NRC Framework* are addressed in these performance expectations: the structure and properties of matter, and nuclear processes. Students are expected to develop understanding of the substructure of atoms and provide more mechanistic explanations of the properties of substances. Students are able to use the periodic table as a tool to explain and predict the properties of elements. Phenomena involving nuclei are also important to understand, as they explain the formation and abundance of the elements, radioactivity, the release of energy from the sun and other stars, and the generation of nuclear power. The crosscutting concepts of patterns, energy and matter, and structure and function are called out as organizing concepts for these disciplinary core ideas. In these performance expectations, students are expected to demonstrate proficiency in developing and using models, planning and conducting investigations, and communicating scientific and technical information; and to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas.

The performance expectations in the topic **Chemical Reactions** help students formulate an answer to the questions: “How do substances combine or change (react) to make new substances? How does one characterize and explain these reactions and make predictions about them?” Chemical reactions, including rates of reactions and energy changes, can be understood by students at this level in terms of the collisions of molecules and the rearrangements of atoms. Using this expanded knowledge of chemical reactions, students are able to explain important biological and geophysical phenomena. Students are also able to apply an understanding of the process of optimization in engineering design to chemical reaction systems. The crosscutting concepts of patterns, energy and matter, and stability and change are called out as organizing concepts for these disciplinary core ideas. In these performance expectations, students are expected to demonstrate proficiency in developing and using models, using mathematical thinking, constructing explanations, and designing solutions; and to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas.

The Performance Expectations associated with the topic **Forces and Interactions** supports students’ understanding of ideas related to why some objects will keep moving, why objects fall
to the ground, and why some materials are attracted to each other while others are not. Students should be able to answer the question, “How can one explain and predict interactions between objects and within systems of objects?” The disciplinary core idea expressed in the Framework for PS2 is broken down into the sub ideas of Forces and Motion and Types of Interactions. The performance expectations in PS2 focus on students building understanding of forces and interactions and Newton’s Second Law. Students also develop understanding that the total momentum of a system of objects is conserved when there is no net force on the system. Students are able to use Newton’s Law of Gravitation and Coulomb’s Law to describe and predict the gravitational and electrostatic forces between objects. Students are able to apply scientific and engineering ideas to design, evaluate, and refine a device that minimizes the force on a macroscopic object during a collision. The crosscutting concepts of patterns, cause and effect, and systems and system models are called out as organizing concepts for these disciplinary core ideas. In the PS2 performance expectations, students are expected to demonstrate proficiency in planning and conducting investigations, analyzing data and using math to support claims, and applying scientific ideas to solve design problems; and to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas.

The Performance Expectations associated with the topic Energy help students formulate an answer to the question, “How is energy transferred and conserved?” The disciplinary core idea expressed in the Framework for PS3 is broken down into four sub-core ideas: Definitions of Energy, Conservation of Energy and Energy Transfer, the Relationship between Energy and Forces, and Energy in Chemical Process and Everyday Life. Energy is understood as quantitative property of a system that depends on the motion and interactions of matter and radiation within that system, and the total change of energy in any system is always equal to the total energy transferred into or out of the system. Students develop an understanding that energy at both the macroscopic and the atomic scale can be accounted for as either motions of particles or energy stored in fields. Students also demonstrate their understanding of engineering principles when they design, build, and refine devices associated with the conversion of energy. The crosscutting concepts of cause and effect; systems and system models; energy and matter; and the influence of science, engineering, and technology on society and the natural world are further developed in the performance expectations associated with PS3. In these performance expectations, students are expected to demonstrate proficiency in developing and using models, planning and carry out investigations, using computational thinking, and designing solutions; and to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas.

The Performance Expectations associated with the topic Waves and Electromagnetic Radiation are critical to understand how many new technologies work. As such, this disciplinary core idea helps students answer the question, “How are waves used to transfer energy and send and store information?” The disciplinary core idea in PS4 is broken down into Wave Properties, Electromagnetic Radiation, and Information Technologies and Instrumentation. Students are able to apply understanding of how wave properties and the interactions of electromagnetic radiation with matter can transfer information across long distances, store information, and investigate nature on many scales. Models of electromagnetic radiation as either a wave of changing electric and magnetic fields or as particles are developed and used. Students understand that combining waves of different frequencies can make a wide variety of patterns and thereby encode and transmit information. Students also demonstrate their understanding of engineering ideas by presenting information about how technological devices use the principles of wave behavior and wave interactions with matter to transmit and
capture information and energy. The crosscutting concepts of cause and effect; systems and system models; stability and change; interdependence of science, engineering, and technology; and the influence of engineering, technology, and science on society and the natural world are highlighted as organizing concepts for these disciplinary core ideas. In the PS3 performance expectations, students are expected to demonstrate proficiency in asking questions, using mathematical thinking, engaging in argument from evidence, and obtaining, evaluating and communicating information; and to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas.
High School Life Sciences

Students in high school develop understanding of key concepts that help them make sense of life science. The ideas are building upon students’ science understanding of disciplinary core ideas, science and engineering practices, and crosscutting concepts from earlier grades. There are five life science topics in high school: 1) Structure and Function, 2) Inheritance and Variation of Traits, Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems, 4) Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems, and 5) Natural Selection and Evolution. The performance expectations for high school life science blend core ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing useable knowledge that can be applied across the science disciplines. While the performance expectations in high school life science couple particular practices with specific disciplinary core ideas, instructional decisions should include use of many practices underlying the performance expectations. The performance expectations are based on the grade-band endpoints described in A Framework for K-12 Science Education (NRC, 2012).

The performance expectations in the topic Structure and Function help students formulate an answer to the question: “How do the structures of organisms enable life’s functions?” High school students are able to investigate explanations for the structure and function of cells as the basic units of life, the hierarchical systems of organisms, and the role of specialized cells for maintenance and growth. Students demonstrate understanding of how systems of cells function together to support the life processes. Students demonstrate their understanding through critical reading, using models, and conducting investigations. The crosscutting concepts of structure and function, matter and energy, and systems and system models in organisms are called out as organizing concepts.

The performance expectations in the topic Inheritance and Variation of Traits help students in pursuing an answer to the question: “How are the characteristics from one generation related to the previous generation?” High school students demonstrate understanding of the relationship of DNA and chromosomes in the processes of cellular division that pass traits from one generation to the next. Students can determine why individuals of the same species vary in how they look, function, and behave. Students can develop conceptual models for the role of DNA in the unity of life on Earth and use statistical models to explain the importance of variation within populations for the survival and evolution of species. Ethical issues related to genetic modification of organisms and the nature of science can be described. Students can explain the mechanisms of genetic inheritance and describe the environmental and genetic causes of gene mutation and the alteration of gene expression. Crosscutting concepts of structure and function, patterns, and cause and effect developed in this topic help students to generalize understanding of inheritance of traits to other applications in science.

The performance expectations in the topic Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems help students answer the questions: “How do organisms obtain and use energy they need to live and grow? How do matter and energy move through ecosystems?” High school students can construct explanations for the role of energy in the cycling of matter in organisms and ecosystems. They can apply mathematical concepts to develop evidence to support explanations of the interactions of photosynthesis and cellular respiration and develop
models to communicate these explanations. They can relate the nature of science to how explanations may change in light of new evidence and the implications for our understanding of the tentative nature of science. Students understand organisms’ interactions with each other and their physical environment, how organisms obtain resources, change the environment, and how these changes affect both organisms and ecosystems. In addition, students can utilize the crosscutting concepts of matter and energy and Systems and system models to make sense of ecosystem dynamics.

The performance expectations in the topic Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems help students answer the question, “How do organisms interact with the living and non-living environment to obtain matter and energy?” This topic builds on the other topics as high school students demonstrate an ability to investigate the role of biodiversity in ecosystems and the role of animal behavior on survival of individuals and species. Students have increased understanding of interactions among organisms and how those interactions influence the dynamics of ecosystems. Students can generate mathematical comparisons, conduct investigations, use models, and apply scientific reasoning to link evidence to explanations about interactions and changes within ecosystems.

The performance expectations in the topic Natural Selection and Evolution help students answer the questions: “How can there be so many similarities among organisms yet so many different plants, animals, and microorganisms? How does biodiversity affect humans?” High school students can investigate patterns to find the relationship between the environment and natural selection. Students demonstrate understanding of the factors causing natural selection and the process of evolution of species over time. They demonstrate understanding of how multiple lines of evidence contribute to the strength of scientific theories of natural selection and evolution. Students can demonstrate an understanding of the processes that change the distribution of traits in a population over time and describe extensive scientific evidence ranging from the fossil record to genetic relationships among species that support the theory of biological evolution. Students can use models, apply statistics, analyze data, and produce scientific communications about evolution. Understanding of the crosscutting concepts of patterns, scale, structure and function, and cause and effect supports the development of a deeper understanding of this topic.
High School Earth and Space Sciences

Students in high school develop understanding of a wide range of topics in Earth and space science (ESS) that build upon science concepts from middle school through more advanced content, practice, and crosscutting themes. There are five ESS standard topics in middle school: Space Systems, History of Earth, Earth’s Systems, Weather and Climate, and Human Sustainability. The content of the performance expectations are based on current community-based geoscience literacy efforts such as the Earth Science Literacy Principles (Wysession et al., 2012), and is presented with a greater emphasis on an Earth Systems Science approach. There are strong connections to mathematical practices of analyzing and interpreting data. The performance expectations strongly reflect the many societally relevant aspects of ESS (resources, hazards, environmental impacts) with an emphasis on using engineering and technology concepts to design solutions to challenges facing human society.

**Space Systems:** High school students can examine the processes governing the formation, evolution, and workings of the solar system and universe. Some concepts studied are fundamental to science, such as understanding how the matter of our world formed during the Big Bang and within the cores of stars. Others concepts are practical, such as understanding how short-term changes in the behavior of our sun directly affect humans. Engineering and technology play a large role here in obtaining and analyzing the data that support the theories of the formation of the solar system and universe.

**History of Earth:** Students can construct explanations for the scales of time over which Earth processes operate. An important aspect of Earth and space science involves making inferences about events in Earth’s history based on a data record that is increasingly incomplete that farther you go back in time. A mathematical analysis of radiometric dating is used to comprehend how absolute ages are obtained for the geologic record. A key to Earth’s history is the coevolution of the biosphere with Earth’s other systems, not only in the ways that climate and environmental changes have shaped the course of evolution but also in how emerging life forms have been responsible for changing Earth.

**Earth’s Systems:** Students can develop models and explanations for the ways that feedbacks between different Earth systems control the appearance of Earth’s surface. Central to this is the tension between internal systems, which are largely responsible for creating land at Earth’s surface (e.g., volcanism and mountain building), and the sun-driven surface systems that tear down the land through weathering and erosion. Students understand the role that water plays in affecting weather. Students understand chemical cycles such as the carbon cycle. Students can examine the ways that human activities cause feedbacks that create changes to other systems.

**Weather and Climate:** Students understand the system interactions that control weather and climate, with a major emphasis on the mechanisms and implications of climate change. Students understand the analysis and interpretation of different kinds of geoscience data allow students to construct explanations for the many factors that drive climate change over a wide range of time scales.
**Human Impacts:** Students understand the complex and significant interdependencies between humans and the rest of Earth’s systems through the impacts of natural hazards, our dependencies on natural resources, and the environmental impacts of human activities.
# HS. Structure and Properties of Matter

**HS.Structure and Properties of Matter**

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

**HS-PS1-1.** Use the periodic table as a model to predict the relative properties of elements based on the patterns of electrons in the outermost energy level of atoms. [Clarification Statement: Examples of properties that could be predicted from patterns could include reactivity of metals, types of bonds formed, numbers of bonds formed, and reactions with oxygen. [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to main group elements. Assessment does not include quantitative understanding of ionization energy beyond relative trends.]

**HS-PS1-3.** Plan and conduct an investigation to gather evidence to compare the structure of substances at the bulk scale to infer the strength of electrical forces between particles. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on understanding the strengths of forces between particles, and not on naming specific intermolecular forces (such as dipole-dipole). Examples of particles could include ions, atoms, molecules, and networked materials (such as graphite). Examples of bulk properties of substances could include the melting point and boiling point, vapor pressure, and surface tension. [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include Raoult’s law calculations of vapor pressure.]

**HS-PS1-8.** Develop models to illustrate the changes in the composition of the nucleus of the atom and the energy released during the processes of fission, fusion, and radioactive decay. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on simple qualitative models, such as pictures or diagrams, and on the scale of energy released in nuclear processes relative to other kinds of transformations. [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include quantitative calculation of energy released. Assessment is limited to alpha, beta, and gamma radioactive decays.]

**HS-PS2-6.** Communicate scientific and technical information about why the molecular-level structure is important in the functioning of designed materials.* [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the attractive and repulsive forces that determine the functioning of the material. Examples could include why electrically conductive materials are often made of metal, flexible but durable materials are made up of long chained molecules, and pharmaceuticals are designed to interact with specific receptors. [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to provided molecular structures of specific designed materials.]

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**Science and Engineering Practices**

- **Developing and Using Models**
  - Modeling in 9–12 builds on K–8 and progresses to using, synthesizing, and developing models to predict and show relationships among variables between systems and their components in the natural and designed worlds.
  - Develop a model based on evidence to illustrate the relationships between systems or between components of a system. (HS-PS1-8)
  - Use a model to predict the relationships between systems or between components of a system. (HS-PS1-1)

- **Planning and Carrying Out Investigations**
  - Planning and carrying out investigations in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to include investigations that provide evidence for and test conceptual, mathematical, physical, and empirical models.
  - Plan and conduct an investigation individually and collaboratively to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence, and in the design: decide on types, how much, and accuracy of data needed to produce reliable measurements and consider limitations on the precision of the data (e.g., number of trials, cost, risk, time), and refine the design accordingly. (HS-PS1-3)

- **Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information**
  - Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information in 9–12 builds on K–8 and progresses to evaluating the validity and reliability of the claims, methods, and designs.
  - Communicate scientific and technical information (e.g. about the process of development and the design and performance of a proposed process or system) in multiple formats (including orally, graphically, textually, and mathematically). (HS-PS2-6)

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**Disciplinary Core Ideas**

### PS1.A: Structure and Properties of Matter

- Each atom has a charged substructure consisting of a nucleus, which is made of protons and neutrons, surrounded by electrons. (HS-PS1-1)
- The periodic table orders elements horizontally by the number of protons in the atom’s nucleus and places those with similar chemical properties in columns. The repeating patterns of this table reflect patterns of outer electron states. (HS-PS1-1, HS-PS1-2)
- The structure and interactions of matter at the bulk scale are determined by electrical forces within and between atoms. (HS-PS1-3, secondary to HS-PS2-6)

### PS1.C: Nuclear Processes

- Nuclear processes, including fusion, fission, and radioactive decays of unstable nuclei, involve release or absorption of energy. The total number of neutrons plus protons does not change in any nuclear process. (HS-PS1-8)

### PS2.B: Types of Interactions

- Attraction and repulsion between electric charges at the atomic scale explain the structure, properties, and transformations of matter, as well as the contact forces between material objects. (HS-PS1-1, HS-PS1-3, HS-PS2-6)

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**Crosscutting Concepts**

### Patterns

- Different patterns may be observed at each of the scales at which a system is studied and can provide evidence for causality in explanations of phenomena. (HS-PS1-1, HS-PS3-3)

### Energy and Matter

- In nuclear processes, atoms are not conserved, but the total number of protons plus neutrons is conserved. (HS-PS1-8)

### Structure and Function

- Investigating or designing new systems or structures requires a detailed examination of the properties of different materials, the structures of different components, and connections of components to reveal its function and/or solve a problem. (HS-PS2-6)

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*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.

April 2013 NGSS Release

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*Connections to other DCIs in this grade-level: Will be available on or before April 26, 2013.*

*Articulation to DCIs across grade-levels: Will be available on or before April 26, 2013.*

*Common Core State Standards Connections: Will be available on or before April 26, 2013.*

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*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.*
HS.Chemical Reactions

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

**HS-PS1-2.** Construct and revise an explanation for the outcome of a simple chemical reaction based on the outermost electron states of atoms, trends in the periodic table, and knowledge of the patterns of chemical properties. [Clarification Statement: Examples of chemical reactions could include the reaction of sodium and chlorine, of carbon and oxygen, or of carbon and hydrogen.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to chemical reactions involving main group elements and combustion reactions.]

**HS-PS1-4.** Develop a model to illustrate that the release or absorption of energy from a chemical reaction system depends upon the changes in total bond energy. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the idea that a chemical reaction is a system that affects the energy change. Examples of models could include molecular-level drawings and diagrams of reactions, graphs showing the relative energies of reactants and products, and representations showing energy is conserved.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include calculating the total bond energy changes during a chemical reaction from the bond energies of reactants and products.]

**HS-PS1-5.** Apply scientific principles and evidence to provide an explanation about the effects of changing the temperature or concentration of the reacting particles on the rate at which a reaction occurs. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on student reasoning that focuses on the number and energy of collisions between molecules.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to simple reactions in which there are only two reactants; evidence from temperature, concentration, and rate data; and qualitative relationships between rate and temperature.]

**HS-PS1-6.** Refine the design of a chemical system by specifying a change in conditions that would produce increased amounts of products at equilibrium.* [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the application of Le Chatelier’s Principle and on refining designs of chemical reaction systems, including descriptions of the connection between changes made at the macroscopic level and what happens at the molecular level. Examples of designs could include different ways to increase product formation including adding reactants or removing products.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to specifying the change in only one variable at a time. Assessment does not include calculating equilibrium constants and concentrations.]

**HS-PS1-7.** Use mathematical representations to support the claim that atoms, and therefore mass, are conserved during a chemical reaction. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on using mathematical ideas to communicate the proportional relationships between masses of atoms in the reactants and the products, and the translation of these relationships to the macroscopic scale using the mole as the conversion from the atomic to the macroscopic scale. Emphasis is on assessing students’ use of mathematical thinking and not on memorization and rote application of problem-solving techniques.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include complex chemical reactions.]

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The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document A Framework for K-12 Science Education:

**Science and Engineering Practices**

- Developing and Using Models
  - Modeling in 9–12 builds on K–8 and progresses to using, synthesizing, and developing models to predict and show relationships among variables between systems and their components in the natural and designed worlds.
  - Develop a model based on evidence to illustrate the relationships between systems or between components of a system. (HS-PS1–4)

- Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking
  - Mathematical and computational thinking at the 9–12 level builds on K–8 and progresses to using algebraic thinking and analysis, a range of linear and nonlinear functions including trigonometric functions, exponentials and logarithms, and computational tools for statistical analysis to analyze, represent, and model data. Simple computational simulations are created and used based on mathematical models of basic assumptions.
  - Use mathematical representations of phenomena to support claims. (HS-PS1–7)

- Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions
  - Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to explanations and designs that are supported by multiple and independent student-generated sources of evidence consistent with scientific ideas, principles, and theories.
  - Apply scientific principles and evidence to provide an explanation of phenomena and solve design problems, taking into account possible unanticipated effects. (HS-PS1–5)
  - Construct and revise an explanation based on valid and reliable evidence obtained from a variety of sources (including students’ own investigations, models, theories, simulations, peer review) and the assumption that theories and laws that describe the natural world operate today as they did in the past and will continue to do so in the future. (HS-PS1–2)
  - Refine a solution to a complex real-world problem, based on scientific knowledge, student-generated sources of evidence, prioritized criteria, and tradeoff considerations. (HS-PS1–6)

**Disciplinary Core Ideas**

- **PS1A: Structure and Properties of Matter**
  - The periodic table orders elements horizontally by the number of protons in the atom’s nucleus and places those with similar chemical properties in columns. The repeating patterns of this table reflect patterns of outer electron states. (HS-PS1–2) (Note: This Disciplinary Core Idea is also addressed by HS-PS1–1.)
  - Stable forms of matter are those in which the electric and magnetic field energy is minimized. A stable molecule has less energy than the same set of atoms separated; one must provide at least this energy in order to take the molecule apart. (HS-PS1–4)

- **PS1B: Chemical Reactions**
  - Chemical processes, their rates, and whether or not energy is stored or released can be understood in terms of the collisions of molecules and the rearrangements of atoms into new molecules, with consequent changes in the sum of all bond energies in the set of molecules that are matched by changes in kinetic energy. (HS-PS1–4),(HS-PS1–5)
  - In real situations, a dynamic and condition-dependent balance between a reaction and the reverse reaction determines the numbers of all types of molecules present. (HS-PS1–6)
  - The fact that atoms are conserved, together with knowledge of the chemical properties of the elements involved, can be used to describe and predict chemical reactions. (HS-PS1–2),(HS-PS1–7)

- **ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution**
  - Criteria may need to be broken down into simpler ones that can be approached systematically, and decisions about the priority of certain criteria over others (trade-offs) may be needed. (secondary to HS-PS1–6)

**Crosscutting Concepts**

- **Patterns**
  - Different patterns may be observed at each of the scales at which a system is studied and can provide evidence for causality in explanations of phenomena. (HS-PS1–5)

- **Energy and Matter**
  - The total amount of energy and matter in closed systems is conserved. (HS-PS1–7)
  - Changes of energy and matter in a system can be described in terms of energy and matter flows into, out of, and within that system. (HS-PS1–4)

- **Stability and Change**
  - Much of science deals with constructing explanations of how things change and how they remain stable. (HS-PS1–6)

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*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.

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### HS.Force and Interactions

**HS-PS2-1.** Analyze data to support the claim that Newton’s second law of motion describes the mathematical relationship among the net force on a macroscopic object, its mass, and its acceleration.  
[Clarification Statement: Examples of data could include tables or graphs of position or velocity as a function of time for objects subject to a net unbalanced force, such as a falling object, an object rolling down a ramp, or a moving object being pulled by a constant force.]  
[Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to one-dimensional motion and to macroscopic objects moving at non-relativistic speeds.]  

**HS-PS2-2.** Use mathematical representations to support the claim that the total momentum of a system of objects is conserved when there is no net force on the system.  
[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the quantitative conservation of momentum in interactions and the qualitative meaning of this principle.]  
[Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to systems of two macroscopic bodies moving in one dimension.]  

**HS-PS2-3.** Apply scientific and engineering ideas to design, evaluate, and refine a device that minimizes the force on a macroscopic object during a collision.*  
[Clarification Statement: Examples of evaluation and refinement could include determining the success of a device at protecting an object from damage and modifying the design to improve it. Examples of a device could include a football helmet or a parachute.]  
[Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to qualitative evaluations and/or algebraic manipulations.]  

**HS-PS2-4.** Use mathematical representations of Newton’s Law of Gravitation and Coulomb’s Law to describe and predict the gravitational and electrostatic forces between objects.  
[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on both quantitative and conceptual descriptions of gravitational and electric fields.]  
[Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to systems with two objects.]  

**HS-PS2-5.** Plan and conduct an investigation to provide evidence that an electric current can produce a magnetic field and that a changing magnetic field can produce an electric current.  
[Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to designing and conducting investigations with provided materials and tools.]  

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### Science and Engineering Practices

**Planning and Carrying Out Investigations**

Planning and carrying out investigations to answer questions or test solutions to problems in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to include investigations that provide evidence for and test conceptual, mathematical, physical and empirical models.

- Plan and conduct an investigation individually and collaboratively to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence, and in the design: decide on types, how much, and accuracy of data needed to produce reliable measurements and consider limitations on the precision of the data (e.g., number of trials, cost, risk, time), and refine the design accordingly. (HS-PS2-5)

**Analyzing and Interpreting Data**

Analyzing data in 9–12 builds on K–8 and progresses to introducing more detailed statistical analysis, the comparison of data sets for consistency, and the use of models to generate and analyze data.

- Analyze data using tools, technologies, and/or models (e.g., computational, mathematical) in order to make valid and reliable scientific claims or determine an optimal design solution. (HS-PS2-1)

**Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking**

Mathematical and computational thinking at the 9–12 level builds on K–8 and progresses to using algebraic thinking and analysis, a range of linear and nonlinear functions including trigonometric functions, exponentials and logarithms, and computational tools for statistical analysis to analyze, represent, and model data. Simple computational simulations are created and used based on mathematical models of basic assumptions.

- Use mathematical representations of phenomena to describe explanations. (HS-PS2-2),(HS-PS2-4)

**Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions**

Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to explanations and designs that are supported by multiple and independent student-generated sources of evidence consistent with scientific ideas, principles, and theories.

- Apply scientific ideas to solve a design problem, taking into account possible unanticipated effects. (HS-PS2-3)

### Disciplinary Core Ideas

**PS2.A: Forces and Motion**

- Newton’s second law accurately predicts changes in the motion of macroscopic objects. (HS-PS2-1)
- Momentum is defined for a particular frame of reference; it is the mass times the velocity of the object. In any system, total momentum is always conserved. (HS-PS2-2)
- If a system interacts with objects outside itself, the total momentum of the system can change; however, any such change is balanced by changes in the momentum of objects outside the system. (HS-PS2-2),(HS-PS2-3)

**PS2.B: Types of Interactions**

- Newton’s law of universal gravitation and Coulomb’s law provide the mathematical models to describe and predict the effects of gravitational and electrostatic forces between distant objects. (HS-PS2-4)
- Forces at a distance are explained by fields (gravitational, electric, and magnetic) permeating space that can transfer energy through space. Magnets or electric currents cause magnetic fields; electric charges or changing magnetic fields cause electric fields. (HS-PS2-4),(HS-PS2-5)

**PS3.A: Definitions of Energy**

- "...and "electrical energy" may mean energy stored in a battery or energy transmitted by electric currents." (secondary to HS-PS2-5)

**ETS1.A: Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems**

- Criteria and constraints also include satisfying any requirements set by society, such as taking issues of risk mitigation into account, and they should be quantified to the extent possible and stated in such a way that one can tell if a given design meets them. (secondary to HS-PS2-3)

**ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution**

- Criteria may need to be broken down into simpler ones that can be approached systematically, and decisions about the priority of certain criteria over others (trade-offs) may be needed. (secondary to HS-PS2-3)

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HS.Energy

**HS.Energy**

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

**HS-P5.3.1.** Create a computational model to calculate the change in the energy of one component in a system when the change in energy of the other component(s) and energy flows in and out of the system are known. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on explaining the meaning of mathematical expressions used in the model.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to basic algebraic expressions or computations; to systems of two or three components; and to thermal energy, kinetic energy, and/or the energies in gravitational, magnetic, or electric fields.]

**HS-P5.3.2.** Develop and use models to illustrate that energy at the macroscopic scale can be accounted for as either motions of particles or energy stored in fields. [Clarification Statement: Examples of phenomena at the macroscopic scale could include the conversion of kinetic energy to thermal energy, the energy stored due to position of an object above the earth, and the energy stored between two electrically charged plates. Examples of models could include diagrams, drawings, descriptions, and computer simulations.]

**HS-P5.3.3.** Design, build, and refine a device that works within given constraints to convert one form of energy into another form of energy.* [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on analyzing data from student investigations and using mathematical thinking to describe the energy changes both quantitatively and conceptually. Examples of investigations could include mixing liquids at different initial temperatures or adding objects at different temperatures to water. ] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to investigations based on materials and tools provided to students.]

**HS-P5.3.4.** Plan and conduct an investigation to provide evidence that the transfer of thermal energy when two components of different temperature are combined within a closed system results in a more uniform energy distribution among the components in the system (second law of thermodynamics). [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on analyzing data from student investigations and using mathematical thinking to describe the energy changes both quantitatively and conceptually. Examples of investigations could include mixing liquids at different initial temperatures or adding objects at different temperatures to water. ] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to investigations based on materials and tools provided to students.]

**HS-P5.3.5.** Develop and use a model of two objects interacting through electric or magnetic fields to illustrate the forces between objects and the changes in energy of the objects due to the interaction. [Clarification Statement: Examples of models could include drawings, diagrams, and texts, such as drawings of what happens when two charges of opposite polarity are near each other, including an explanation of how the change in energy of the objects is related to the change in energy of the field. ] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to systems containing two objects.]

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document, *A Framework for K-12 Science Education.*

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**Science and Engineering Practices**

**Developing and Using Models**

Modeling in 9–12 builds on K–8 and progresses to using, synthesizing, and developing models to predict and show relationships among variables between systems and their components in the natural and designed worlds.

- Develop and use a model based on evidence to illustrate the relationships between systems or between components of a system. (HS-P5.3-2),(HS-P5-5)

**Planning and Carrying Out Investigations**

Planning and carrying out investigations to answer questions or test solutions to problems in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to include investigations that provide evidence for and test conceptual, mathematical, physical, and empirical models.

- Plan and conduct an investigation individually and collaboratively to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence, and in the design: decide on types, how much, and accuracy of data needed to produce reliable measurements and consider limitations on the precision of the data (e.g., number of trials, cost, risk, time), and refine the design accordingly. (HS-P5.3-4)

**Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking**

Mathematical and computational thinking at the 9–12 level builds on K–8 and progresses to using algebraic thinking and analysis, a range of linear and nonlinear functions including trigonometric functions, exponentials and logarithms, and computational tools for statistical analysis to analyze, represent, and model data. Simple computational simulations are created and used based on mathematical models of basic assumptions.

- Create a computational model or simulation of a phenomenon, designed device, process, or system. (HS-P5.3-1)

**Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions**

Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to explanations and designs that are supported by multiple and independent student-generated sources of evidence consistent with scientific ideas, principles, and theories.

- Design, evaluate, and/or refine a solution to a

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**Disciplinary Core Ideas**

**PS3.A: Definitions of Energy**

- Energy is a quantitative property of a system that depends on the motion and interactions of matter and radiation within that system. There is a single quantity called energy due to the fact that a system's total energy is conserved, even as, within the system, energy is continually transferred from one object to another and between its various possible forms. (HS-P5.3-1,HS-P5.3-2)

- At the macroscopic scale, energy manifests itself in multiple ways, such as in motion, sound, light, and thermal energy. (HS-P5.3-2,HS-P5.3-3)

- These relationships are better understood at the microscopic scale, at which all of the different manifestations of energy can be modeled as either motions of particles or energy stored in fields (which mediate interactions between particles). This last concept includes radiation, a phenomenon in which energy stored in fields moves across space. (HS-P5.3-2)

**PS3.B: Conservation of Energy and Energy Transfer**

- Conservation of energy means that the total change of energy in any system is always equal to the total energy transferred into or out of the system. (HS-P5.3-1)

- Energy cannot be created or destroyed, but it can be transported from one place to another and transferred between systems. (HS-P5.3-1),(HS-P5.3-4)

- Mathematical expressions, which quantify how the stored energy in a system depends on its configuration (e.g., relative positions of charged particles, compression of a spring) and how kinetic energy depends on mass and speed, allow the concept of conservation of energy to be used to predict and describe system behavior. (HS-P5.3-1)

- The availability of energy limits what can occur in any system. (HS-P5.3-1)

- Uncontrolled systems always evolve toward more stable states—that is, toward more uniform energy distribution (e.g., water flows downhill, objects hotter than their surrounding environment cool down). (HS-P5.3-4)

**PS3.C: Relationship Between Energy and Forces**

- When two objects interact through a field change relative position, the energy stored in the field is changed. (HS-P5.3-5)

**PS3.D: Energy in Chemical Processes**

- Although energy cannot be destroyed, it can be converted to less useful forms—for example, to thermal energy in the surrounding environment. (HS-P5.3-3),(HS-P5.3-4)

**ETS1.A: Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems**

- Criteria and constraints also include satisfying any requirements

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**Crosscutting Concepts**

**Cause and Effect**

- Cause and effect relationships can be suggested and predicted for complex natural and human designed systems by examining what is known about smaller scale mechanisms within the system. (HS-P5.3-5)

**Systems and System Models**

- When investigating or describing a system, the boundaries and initial conditions of the system need to be defined and their inputs and outputs analyzed and described using models. (HS-P5.3-4)

- Models can be used to predict the behavior of a system, but these predictions have limited precision and reliability due to the assumptions and approximations inherent in models. (HS-P5.3-1)

**Energy and Matter**

- Changes of energy and matter in a system can be described in terms of energy and matter flows into, out of, and within that system. (HS-P5.3-3)

- Energy cannot be created or destroyed—only moves between one place and another place, between objects and/or fields, or between systems. (HS-P5.3-2)

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Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science

**Influence of Science, Engineering, and Technology on Society and the Natural World**

- Modern civilization depends on major technological systems. Engineers continuously modify these technological systems by applying scientific knowledge and engineering design practices to increase benefits while decreasing costs and risks. (HS-P5.3-3)

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Connections to Nature of Science

**Scientific Knowledge Assumes an Order and Consistency in Natural Systems**

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| complex real-world problem, based on scientific knowledge, student-generated sources of evidence, prioritized criteria, and tradeoff considerations. (HS-PS3-3) | set by society, such as taking issues of risk mitigation into account, and they should be quantified to the extent possible and stated in such a way that one can tell if a given design meets them. (secondary to HS-PS3-3) | • Science assumes the universe is a vast single system in which basic laws are consistent. (HS-PS3-1) |

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Assessment Boundary:

Science Models, Laws, Mechanisms, and Theories Explain

- Students who demonstrate understanding can:
  - Use mathematical representations to support a claim regarding relationships among the frequency, wavelength, and speed of waves traveling in various media. [Clarification Statement: Examples of data could include electromagnetic radiation traveling in a vacuum and glass, sound waves traveling through air and water, and seismic waves traveling through the Earth.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to algebraic relationships and describing those relationships qualitatively.]
  - Evaluate questions about the advantages of using a digital transmission and storage of information. [Clarification Statement: Examples of advantages could include that digital information is stable because it can be stored reliably in computer memory, transferred easily, and copied and shared rapidly. Disadvantages could include issues of easy deletion, security, and theft.]
  - Evaluate the claims, evidence, and reasoning behind the idea that electromagnetic radiation can be described either by a wave model or a particle model, and that for some situations one model is more useful than the other. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on how the experimental evidence supports the claim and how a theory is generally modified in light of new evidence. Examples of a phenomenon could include resonance, interference, diffraction, and photoelectric effect.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include using quantum theory.]
  - Evaluate the validity and reliability of claims in published materials of the effects that different frequencies of electromagnetic radiation have when absorbed by matter. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the idea that different frequencies of light have different energies, and the damage to living tissue from electromagnetic radiation depends on the energy of the radiation. Examples of published materials could include trade books, magazines, web resources, videos, and other passages that may reflect bias.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to qualitative descriptions.]
  - Communicate technical information about how some technological devices use the principles of wave behavior and wave interactions with matter to transmit and capture information and energy.* [Clarification Statement: Examples could include solar cells capturing light and converting it to electricity; medical imaging; and communications technology.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessments are limited to qualitative information. Assessments do not include band theory.]

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document A Framework for K-12 Science Education:

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<th>Science and Engineering Practices</th>
<th>Disciplinary Core Ideas</th>
<th>Crosscutting Concepts</th>
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<tr>
<td>Asking Questions and Defining Problems</td>
<td>PS3.D: Energy in Chemical Processes</td>
<td>Cause and Effect</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engaging in Argument from Evidence</td>
<td>- Solar cells are human-made devices that likewise capture the sun's energy and produce electrical energy. (Secondary to HS-PS4-2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information</td>
<td>PS4.A: Wave Properties</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- The wavelength and frequency of a wave are related to one another by the speed of travel of the wave, which depends on the type of wave and the medium through which it is passing. (HS-PS4-1)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Information can be digitized (e.g., a picture stored as the values of an array of pixels); in this form, it can be stored reliably in computer memory and sent over long distances as a series of wave pulses. (HS-PS4-2), (HS-PS4-3)</td>
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<td>- [From the 3-5 grade band endpoints] Waves can add or cancel one another as they cross, depending on their relative phase (i.e., relative position of peaks and troughs of the waves), but they emerge unaffected by each other. (Boundary: The discussion at this grade level is qualitative only; it can be based on the fact that two different sounds can pass a location in different directions without getting mixed up.) (HS-PS4-3)</td>
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<td>PS4.B: Electromagnetic Radiation</td>
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<td>- Electromagnetic radiation (e.g., radio, microwaves, light) can be modeled as a wave of changing electric and magnetic fields or as particles called photons. The wave model is useful for explaining many features of electromagnetic radiation, and the particle model explains other features. (HS-PS4-3)</td>
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<td>- When light or longer wavelength electromagnetic radiation is absorbed in matter, it is generally converted into thermal energy (heat). Shorter wavelength electromagnetic radiation (ultraviolet, X-rays, gamma rays) can ionize atoms and cause damage to living cells. (HS-PS4-4)</td>
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<td>- Photovoltaic materials emit electrons when they absorb light of a high-enough frequency. (HS-PS4-5)</td>
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<td>PS4.C: Information Technologies and Instrumentation</td>
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<td>- Multiple technologies based on the understanding of waves and their interactions with matter are part of everyday experiences in the modern world (e.g., medical imaging, communications, scanners) and in scientific research. They are essential tools for producing, transmitting, and capturing signals and for storing and interpreting the information contained in them. (HS-PS4-5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connections to Nature of Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science Models, Laws, Mechanisms, and Theories Explain Natural Phenomena</td>
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<tr>
<td>- A scientific theory is a substantiated explanation of some aspect of the natural world, based on a body of facts that have been repeatedly confirmed through observation and experiment and the science community validates each theory before it is accepted. If new evidence is discovered that the theory does not accommodate,</td>
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### HS.Waves and Electromagnetic Radiation

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Connections to other DCIs in this grade-level</th>
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<tr>
<td>Articulation to DCIs across grade-levels</td>
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### HS. Structure and Function

**Science and Engineering Practices**
- **Developing and Using Models**
  - Modeling in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to using, synthesizing, and developing models to predict and show relationships among variables between systems and their components in the natural and designed world.
  - Develop and use a model based on evidence to illustrate the relationships between systems or between components of a system. (HS–LS1–2)
- **Planning and Carrying Out Investigations**
  - Planning and carrying out in 9-12 builds on K-8 experiences and progresses to include investigations that provide evidence for and test conceptual, mathematical, physical, and empirical models.
  - Plan and conduct an investigation individually and collaboratively to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence, and in the design: decide on types, how much, and accuracy of data needed to produce reliable measurements and consider limitations on the precision of the data (e.g., number of trials, cost, risk, time), and refine the design accordingly. (HS–LS1–3)
- **Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions**
  - Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to explanations and designs that are supported by multiple and independent student-generated sources of evidence consistent with scientific ideas, principles, and theories.
  - Construct an explanation based on valid and reliable evidence obtained from a variety of sources (including students’ own investigations, models, theories, simulations, peer feedback) and the assumption that theories and laws that describe the natural world operate today as they did in the past and will continue to do so in the future. (HS–LS1–1)

**Disciplinary Core Ideas**

- **LS1.A: Structure and Function**
  - Systems of specialized cells within organisms help them perform the essential functions of life. (HS–LS1–1)
  - All cells contain genetic information in the form of DNA molecules. Genes are regions in the DNA that contain the instructions that code for the formation of proteins, which carry out most of the work of cells. (HS–LS1–1) [Note: This Disciplinary Core Idea is also addressed by HS–LS3–1.]Multicellular organisms have a hierarchical structural organization, in which any one system is made up of numerous parts and is itself a component of the next level. (HS–LS1–2)
  - Feedback mechanisms maintain a living system’s internal conditions within certain limits and mediate behaviors, allowing it to remain alive and functional even as external conditions change within some range. Feedback mechanisms can encourage (through positive feedback) or discourage (negative feedback) what is going on inside the living system. (HS–LS1–3)

**Crosscutting Concepts**

- **Systems and System Models**
  - Models (e.g., physical, mathematical, computer models) can be used to simulate systems and interactions—including energy, matter, and information flows—within and between systems at different scales. (HS–LS1–2)
- **Structure and Function**
  - Investigating or designing new systems or structures requires a detailed examination of the properties of different materials, the structures of different components, and connections of components to reveal its function and/or solve a problem. (HS–LS1–1)
- **Stability and Change**
  - Feedback (negative or positive) can stabilize or destabilize a system. (HS–LS1–3)

**Connections to Nature of Science**

- **Scientific Investigations Use a Variety of Methods**
  - Scientific inquiry is characterized by a common set of values that include: logical thinking, precision, open-mindedness, objectivity, skepticism, replicability of results, and honest and ethical reporting of findings. (HS–LS1–3)

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Students who demonstrate understanding can:

**HS-LS1-5.** Use a model to illustrate how photosynthesis transforms light energy into stored chemical energy.  
[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on illustrating inputs and outputs of matter and the transfer and transformation of energy in photosynthesis by plants and other photosynthesizing organisms. Examples of models could include diagrams, chemical equations, and conceptual models.]  
[Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include the specific chemical reactions or identification of macromolecules.]

**HS-LS1-6.** Construct and revise an explanation based on evidence for how carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen from sugar molecules may combine with other elements to form amino acids and/or other large carbon-based molecules.  
[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on using evidence from models and simulations to support explanations.]  
[Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include the details of the specific chemical reactions or identification of macromolecules.]

**HS-LS1-7.** Use a model to illustrate that cellular respiration is a chemical process whereby the bonds of food molecules and oxygen molecules are broken and the bonds in new compounds are formed resulting in a net transfer of energy.  
[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the conceptual understanding of the inputs and outputs of the process of cellular respiration.]  
[Assessment Boundary: Assessment should not include identification of the steps or specific processes involved in cellular respiration.]

**HS-LS2-3.** Construct and revise an explanation based on evidence for the cycling of matter and flow of energy in aerobic and anaerobic conditions.  
[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on conceptual understanding of the role of aerobic and anaerobic respiration in different environments.]  
[Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include the specific chemical processes of either aerobic or anaerobic respiration.]

**HS-LS2-4.** Use a mathematical representation to support claims for the cycling of matter and flow of energy among organisms in an ecosystem.  
[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on using a mathematical model of stored energy in biomass to describe the transfer of energy from one trophic level to another and that matter and energy are conserved as matter cycles and energy flows through ecosystems. Emphasis is on atoms and molecules such as carbon, oxygen, hydrogen and nitrogen being conserved as they move through an ecosystem.]  
[Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to proportional reasoning to describe the cycling of matter and flow of energy.]

**HS-LS2-5.** Develop a model to illustrate the role of photosynthesis and cellular respiration in the cycling of carbon among the biosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, and geosphere.  
[Clarification Statement: Examples of models could include simulations and mathematical models.]  
[Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include the specific chemical steps of photosynthesis and respiration.]

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This page is part of a comprehensive document focusing on the integration of science and engineering practices into educational frameworks, particularly within the context of high school education. The document outlines specific performance expectations for students, emphasizing the development and revision of models, use of evidence, and understanding of core ideas related to matter and energy in organisms and ecosystems. The inclusion of specific examples and clarifications aims to enhance educational practices and assessments in line with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).
*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.

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HS.Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

**HS-LS2-1. Use mathematical and/or computational representations to support explanations of factors that affect carrying capacity of ecosystems at different scales.**  
[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on quantitative analysis and comparison of the relationships among interdependent factors including boundaries, resources, climate and competition. Examples of mathematical comparisons could include graphs, charts, histograms, or population changes gathered from simulations or historical data sets.]  
[Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include determining mathematical equations to make comparisons.]

**HS-LS2-2. Use mathematical representations to support and revise explanations based on evidence about factors affecting biodiversity and populations in ecosystems of different scales.**  
[Clarification Statement: Examples of mathematical representations include finding the average, determining trends, and using graphical comparisons of multiple sets of data.]  
[Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to provided data.]

**HS-LS2-6. Evaluate the claims, evidence, and reasoning that the complex interactions in ecosystems maintain relatively consistent numbers and types of organisms in stable conditions, but changing conditions may result in a new ecosystem.**  
[Clarification Statement: Examples of changes in ecosystem conditions could include modest biological or physical changes, such as moderate hunting or a seasonal flood; and extreme changes, such as volcanic eruption or sea level rise.]

**HS-LS2-7. Design, evaluate, and refine a solution for reducing the impacts of human activities on the environment and biodiversity.**  
[Clarification Statement: Examples of human activities can include urbanization, building dams, and dissemination of invasive species.]

**HS-LS2-8. Evaluate the evidence for the role of group behavior on individual and species’ chances to survive and reproduce.**  
[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on: (1) distinguishing between group and individual behavior, (2) identifying evidence supporting the outcomes of group behavior, and (3) developing logical and reasonable arguments based on evidence. Examples of group behaviors could include flocking, schooling, hunting, and cooperative behaviors such as hunting, migrating, and swarming.]

**HS-LS4-6. Create or revise a simulation to test a solution to mitigate adverse impacts of human activity on biodiversity.**  
[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on designing solutions for a proposed problem related to threatened or endangered species, or to genetic variation of organisms for multiple species.]

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**Disciplinary Core Ideas**

**LS2A: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems**

- Ecosystems have carrying capacities, which are limits to the numbers of organisms and populations they can support. These limits result from such factors as the availability of living and nonliving resources and from such challenges such as predation, competition, and disease. Organisms would have the capacity to produce populations of great size were it not for the fact that environments and resources are finite. This fundamental tension affects the abundance (number of individuals) of species in any given ecosystem. (HS-LS2-1, LS-LS2-2)

**LS2C: Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience**

- A complex set of interactions within an ecosystem can keep its numbers and types of organisms relatively constant over long periods of time under stable conditions. If a modest biological or physical disturbance to an ecosystem occurs, it may return to its more or less original status (i.e., the ecosystem is resilient), as opposed to becoming a very different ecosystem. Extreme fluctuations in conditions or the size of any population, however, can challenge the functioning of ecosystems in terms of resources and habitat availability. (HS-LS2-2, LS-LS2-6)

**LS2D: Social Interactions and Group Behavior**

- Group behavior has evolved because membership can increase the chances of survival for individuals and their genetic relatives. (HS-LS2-8)

**LS4C: Adaptation**

- Changes in the physical environment, whether naturally occurring or human induced, have thus contributed to the expansion of some species, the emergence of new distinct species as populations diverge under different conditions, and the decline—and sometimes the extinction—of some species. (HS-LS4-6)

**LS4D: Biodiversity and Humans**

- Biodiversity is increased by the formation of new species (speciation) and decreased by the loss of species (extinction). (secondary to HS-LS2-7)

- Humans depend on the living world for the resources and other benefits provided by biodiversity. But human...
evidence that may result in revision of an explanation. (HS-LS2-6),(HS-LS2-8)

activity is also having adverse impacts on biodiversity through overpopulation, overexploitation, habitat destruction, pollution, introduction of invasive species, and climate change. Thus sustaining biodiversity so that ecosystem functioning and productivity are maintained is essential to supporting and enhancing life on Earth. Sustaining biodiversity also aids humanity by preserving landscapes of recreational or inspirational value. (secondary to HS-LS2-7), (HS-LS4-6)

**ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions**

- When evaluating solutions, it is important to take into account a range of constraints, including cost, safety, reliability, and aesthetics, and to consider social, cultural, and environmental impacts. (secondary to HS-LS2-7),(secondary to HS-LS4-6)
- Both physical models and computers can be used in various ways to aid in the engineering design process. Computers are useful for a variety of purposes, such as running simulations to test different ways of solving a problem or to see which one is most efficient or economical; and in making a persuasive presentation to a client about how a given design will meet his or her needs. (secondary to HS-LS4-6)

*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.
**HS.Inheritance and Variation of Traits**

**Science and Engineering Practices**

**Asking Questions and Defining Problems**

Asking questions and defining problems in 9-12 builds on K-8 experiences and progresses to formulating, refining, and evaluating empirically testable questions and design problems using models and simulations.

- Ask questions that arise from examining models or a theory to clarify relationships. (HS-LS1-1)

**Developing and Using Models**

Modeling in 9-12 builds on K-8 experiences and progresses to using, synthesizing, and developing models to predict and show relationships among variables between systems and their components in the natural and designed worlds.

- Use a model based on evidence to illustrate the relationships between systems or between components of a system. (HS-LS1-4)

**Analyzing and Interpreting Data**

Analyzing data in 9-12 builds on K-8 experiences and progresses to introducing more detailed statistical analysis, the comparison of data sets for consistency, and the use of models to generate and analyze data.

- Apply concepts of statistics and probability (including determining function fits to data, slope, intercept, and correlation coefficient for linear fits) to scientific and engineering questions and problems, using digital tools when feasible. (HS-LS3-3)

**Engaging in Argument from Evidence**

Engaging in argument from evidence in 9-12 builds on K-8 experiences and progresses to using appropriate and sufficient evidence and scientific reasoning to defend and critique claims and explanations about the natural and designed world(s). Arguments may also come from current scientific or historical episodes in science.

- Make and defend a claim based on evidence about the natural world that reflects scientific knowledge, and student-generated evidence. (HS-LS3-2)

**Disciplinary Core Ideas**

**LS1.A: Structure and Function**

- All cells contain genetic information in the form of DNA molecules. Genes are regions in the DNA that contain the instructions that code for the formation of proteins. (secondary to HS-LS1-1) (Note: This Disciplinary Core Idea is also addressed by HS-LS1-1.)

**LS1.B: Growth and Development of Organisms**

- In multicellular organisms individual cells grow and then divide via a process called mitosis, thereby allowing the organism to grow. The organism begins as a single cell (fertilized egg) that divides successively to produce many cells, with each parent cell passing identical genetic material (two variants of each chromosome pair) to both daughter cells. Cellular division and differentiation produce and maintain a complex organism, composed of systems of tissues and organs that work together to meet the needs of the whole organism. (HS-LS1-4)

**LS3.A: Inheritance of Traits**

- Each chromosome consists of a single very long DNA molecule, and each gene on the chromosome is a particular segment of that DNA. The instructions for forming species’ characteristics are carried in DNA. All cells in an organism have the same genetic content, but the genes used (expressed) by the cell may be regulated in different ways. Not all DNA codes for a protein; some segments of DNA are involved in regulatory or structural functions, and some have no as-yet known function. (HS-LS3-1)

**LS3.B: Variation of Traits**

- In sexual reproduction, chromosomes can sometimes swap sections during the process of meiosis (cell division), thereby creating new genetic combinations and thus more genetic variation. Although DNA replication is tightly regulated and remarkably accurate, errors do occur and result in mutations, which are also a source of genetic variation. Environmental factors can also cause mutations in genes, and viable mutations are inherited. (HS-LS3-2)

- Environmental factors also affect expression of traits, and hence affect the probability of occurrences of traits in a population. Thus the variation and distribution of traits observed depends on both genetic and environmental factors. (HS-LS3-2), (HS-LS3-3)

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### Science and Engineering Practices

#### Analyzing and Interpreting Data
Analyzing data in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to introducing more detailed statistical analysis, the comparison of data sets for consistency, and the use of models to generate and analyze data.

- Apply concepts of statistics and probability (including determining function fits to data, slope, intercept, and correlation coefficient for linear fits) to scientific and engineering questions and problems, using digital tools when feasible. (HS-LS4-3)

#### Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions
Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to explanations and designs that are supported by multiple and independent student-generated sources of evidence consistent with scientific ideas, principles, and theories.

- Construct an explanation based on valid and reliable evidence obtained from a variety of sources (including students’ own investigations, models, theories, simulations, peer review) and the assumption that theories and laws that describe the natural world operate today as they did in the past and will continue to do so in the future. (HS-LS4-2), (HS-LS4-4)

#### Engaging in Argument from Evidence
Engaging in argument from evidence in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to using appropriate and sufficient evidence and scientific reasoning to defend and critique claims and explanations about the natural and designed world(s). Arguments may also come from current or historical episodes in science.

- Evaluate the evidence behind currently accepted explanations or solutions to determine the merits of arguments. (HS-LS4-5)

#### Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information
 Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to evaluating the validity and reliability of the claims, methods, and designs.

- Communicate scientific information (e.g., about phenomena and/or the process of development and the design and performance of a proposed process or system) in multiple formats (including orally, graphically, textually, and mathematically). (HS-LS4-1)

### Disciplinary Core Ideas

#### LS4.A: Evidence of Common Ancestry and Diversity
- Genetic information, like the fossil record, provides evidence of evolution. DNA sequences vary among species, but there are many overlaps; in fact, the ongoing branching that produces multiple lines of descent can be inferred by comparing the DNA sequences of different organisms. Such information is also derivable from the similarities and differences in amino acid sequences and from anatomical and embryological evidence. (HS-LS4-1)

#### LS4.B: Natural Selection
- Natural selection occurs only if there is both (1) variation in the genetic information between organisms in a population and (2) variation in the expression of that genetic information—that is, trait variation—that leads to differences in performance among individuals. (HS-LS4-2), (HS-LS4-3)
- The traits that positively affect survival are more likely to be reproduced, and thus are more common in the population. (HS-LS4-3)

#### LS4.C: Adaptation
- Evolution is a consequence of the interaction of four factors: (1) the potential for a species to increase in number, (2) the genetic variation of individuals in a species due to mutation and sexual reproduction, (3) competition for an environment’s limited supply of the resources that individuals need in order to survive and reproduce, and (4) the ensuing proliferation of those organisms that are better able to survive and reproduce in that environment. (HS-LS4-2)
- Natural selection leads to adaptation, that is, to a population dominated by organisms that are anatomically, behaviorally, and physiologically well suited to survive and reproduce in a specific environment. That is, the differential survival and reproduction of organisms in a population that have an advantageous heritable trait leads to an increase in the proportion of individuals in future generations that have the trait and to a decrease in the proportion of individuals that do not. (HS-LS4-3), (HS-LS4-4)
- Adaptation also means that the distribution of traits in a population can change when conditions change. (HS-LS4-3)
- Changes in the physical environment, whether naturally occurring or human induced, have thus contributed to the expansion of some species, the emergence of new distinct species as populations diverge under different conditions, and the decline—and sometimes the extinction—of some species. (HS-LS4-5)
- Species become extinct because they can no longer survive and reproduce in their altered environment. If members cannot

### Crosscutting Concepts

#### Patterns
- Different patterns may be observed at each of the scales at which a system is studied and can provide evidence for causality in explanations of phenomena. (HS-LS4-1), (HS-LS4-3)

#### Cause and Effect
- Empirical evidence is required to differentiate between cause and correlation and make claims about specific causes and effects. (HS-LS4-2), (HS-LS4-3)

### Connections to Nature of Science

#### Scientific Knowledge Assumes an Order and Consistency in Natural Systems
- Scientific knowledge is based on the assumption that natural laws operate today as they did in the past and will continue to do so in the future. (HS-LS4-1), (HS-LS4-4)

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community validates each theory before it is accepted. If new evidence is discovered that the theory does not accommodate, the theory is generally modified in light of this new evidence. (HS-LS4-1)

adjust to change that is too fast or drastic, the opportunity for the species' evolution is lost. (HS-LS4-5)

Connections to other topics in this grade-level: will be available on or before April 26, 2013.
Articulation across grade-levels: will be available on or before April 26, 2013.
Common Core State Standards Connections: will be available on or before April 26, 2013.

*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.
Science and Engineering Practices

Developing and Using Models
Modeling in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progress to using, synthesizing, and developing models to predict and show relationships among variables between systems and their components in the natural and designed world(s).

- Develop a model based on evidence to illustrate the relationships between systems or between components of a system. (HS-ESS1-1)

Using Mathematical and Computational Thinking
Mathematical and computational thinking in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to using algebraic thinking and analysis, a range of linear and nonlinear functions including trigonometric functions, exponentials and logarithms, and computational tools for statistical analysis to analyze, represent, and model data. Simple computational simulations are created and used based on mathematical models of basic assumptions.

- Use mathematical or computational representations of phenomena to describe explanations. (HS-ESS1-4)

Constructing Explanations and Design Solutions
Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to explanations and designs that are supported by multiple and independent student-generated sources of evidence consistent with scientific ideas, principles, and theories.

- Construct an explanation based on valid and reliable evidence obtained from a variety of sources (including students’ own investigations, models, theories, simulations, peer review) and the assumption that theories and laws that describe the natural world operate today as they did in the past and will continue to do so in the future. (HS-ESS1-2)

Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information
Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progress to evaluating the validity and reliability of the claims, methods, and designs.

- Communicate scientific ideas (e.g., about phenomena and/or the process of development and the design and performance of a proposed process or system) in multiple formats (including orally, graphically, textually, and mathematically). (HS-ESS1-3)

Disciplinary Core Ideas

ESS1.A: The Universe and Its Stars
- The star called the sun is changing and will burn out over a lifespan of approximately 10 billion years. (HS-ESS1-1)
- The study of stars’ light spectra and brightness is used to identify compositional elements of stars, their movements, and their distances from Earth. (HS-ESS1-2), (HS-ESS1-3)

ESS1.B: Earth and the Solar System
- Kepler’s laws describe common features of the motions of orbiting objects, including their elliptical paths around the sun. Orbits may change due to the gravitational effects from, or collisions with, other objects in the solar system. (HS-ESS1-4)

PS3.D: Energy in Chemical Processes and Everyday Life
- Nuclear fusion processes in the center of the sun release the energy that ultimately reaches Earth as radiation. (secondary to HS-ESS1-1)

PS4.B Electromagnetic Radiation
- Atoms of each element emit and absorb characteristic frequencies of light. These characteristics allow identification of the presence of an element, even in microscopic quantities. (secondary to HS-ESS1-2)

Crosscutting Concepts

Scale, Proportion, and Quantity
- The significance of a phenomenon is dependent on the scale, proportion, and quantity at which it occurs. (HS-ESS1-1)
- Algebraic thinking is used to examine scientific data and predict the effect of a change in one variable on another (e.g., linear growth vs. exponential growth). (HS-ESS1-4)

Energy and Matter
- Energy cannot be created or destroyed—only moved between one place and another place, between objects and/or fields, or between systems. (HS-ESS1-2)
- In nuclear processes, atoms are not conserved, but the total number of protons plus neutrons is conserved. (HS-ESS1-3)

Connections to Nature of Science

Science Knowledge Assumes an Order and Consistency in Natural Systems
- Scientific knowledge is based on the assumption that natural laws operate today as they did in the past and they will continue to do so in the future. (HS-ESS1-2)
- Science assumes the universe is a vast single system in which basic laws are consistent. (HS-ESS1-2)
### HS.History of Earth

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

**HS-ESS1-5.** Evaluate evidence of the past and current movements of continental and oceanic crust and the theory of plate tectonics to explain the ages of crustal rocks. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the ability of plate tectonics to explain the ages of crustal rocks. Examples include evidence of the ages oceanic crust increasing with distance from mid-ocean ridges (a result of plate spreading) and the ages of North American continental crust increasing with distance away from a central ancient core (a result of past plate interactions).]

**HS-ESS1-6.** Apply scientific reasoning and evidence from ancient Earth materials, meteorites, and other planetary surfaces to construct an account of Earth’s formation and early history. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on using available evidence within the solar system to reconstruct the early history of Earth, which formed along with the rest of the solar system 4.6 billion years ago. Examples of evidence include the absolute ages of ancient materials (obtained by radiometric dating of meteorites, moon rocks, and Earth’s oldest minerals), the sizes and compositions of solar system objects, and the impact cratering record of planetary surfaces.]

**HS-ESS2-1.** Develop a model to illustrate how Earth’s internal and surface processes operate at different spatial and temporal scales to form continental and ocean-floor features. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on how the appearance of land features (such as mountains, valleys, and plateaus) and sea-floor features (such as trenches, ridges, and seamounts) are a result of both constructive forces (such as volcanism, tectonic uplift, and orogeny) and destructive mechanisms (such as weathering, mass wasting, and coastal erosion).] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include memorization of the details of the formation of specific geographic features of Earth’s surface.]

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### Disciplinary Core Ideas

**ESS1.C: The History of Planet Earth**

- Continental rocks, which can be older than 4 billion years, are generally much older than the rocks of the ocean floor, which are less than 200 million years old. (HS-ESS1-5)
- Although active geologic processes, such as plate tectonics and erosion, have destroyed or altered most of the very early rock record on Earth, other objects in the solar system, such as lunar rocks, asteroids, and meteorites, have changed little over billions of years. Studying these objects can provide information about Earth’s formation and early history. (HS-ESS1-6)

**ESS2.A: Earth Materials and Systems**

- Earth’s systems, being dynamic and interacting, cause feedback effects that can increase or decrease the original changes. A deep knowledge of how feedbacks work within and among Earth’s systems is still lacking, thus limiting scientists’ ability to predict some changes and their impacts. (HS-ESS2-1) (Note: This Disciplinary Core Idea is also addressed by HS-ESS2-2.)

**ESS2.B: Plate Tectonics and Large-Scale System Interactions**

- Plate tectonics is the unifying theory that explains the past and current movements of the rocks at Earth’s surface and provides a framework for understanding its geologic history. (ESS2.B Grade 8 GBE) (secondary to HS-ESS1-5),(HS-ESS2-1)
- Plate movements are responsible for most continental and ocean-floor features and for the distribution of most rocks and minerals within Earth’s crust. (ESS2.B Grade 8 GBE) (HS-ESS2-1)

**PS1.C: Nuclear Processes**

- Spontaneous radioactive decays follow a characteristic exponential decay law. Nuclear lifetimes allow radiometric dating to be used to determine the ages of rocks and other materials. (secondary to HS-ESS1-5),(secondary to HS-ESS1-6)

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### Crosscutting Concepts

**Patterns**

- Empirical evidence is needed to identify patterns. (HS-ESS1-5)

**Stability and Change**

- Much of science deals with constructing explanations of how things change and how they remain stable. (HS-ESS1-6)
- Change and rates of change can be quantified and modeled over very short or very long periods of time. Some system changes are irreversible. (HS-ESS2-1)

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The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education.*

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*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.*
HS.Earth’s Systems

Science and Engineering Practices

Developing and Using Models
Modeling in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to using, synthesizing, and developing models to predict and show relationships among variables between systems and their components in the designed and natural world(s).

- Develop a model based on evidence to illustrate the relationships between systems or between components of a system. (HS-ESS2-3) (HS-ESS2-6)

Planning and Carrying Out Investigations
Planning and carrying out investigations in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to include investigations that provide evidence for and test conceptual, mathematical, physical, and empirical models.

- Plan and conduct an investigation individually and collaboratively to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence, and in the design: decide on types, how much, and accuracy of data needed to produce reliable measurements and consider limitations on the precision of the data (e.g., number of trials, cost, risk, time), and refine the design accordingly. (HS-ESS2-5)

Analyzing and Interpreting Data
Analyzing data in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to introducing more detailed statistical analysis, the comparison of data sets for consistency, and the use of models to generate and analyze data.

- Analyze data using tools, technologies, and/or models (e.g., computational, mathematical) in order to make valid and reliable scientific claims or determine an optimal design solution. (HS-ESS2-2)

Engaging in Argument from Evidence
Engaging in argument from evidence in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to using appropriate and sufficient evidence and scientific reasoning to defend and critique claims and explanations about nature and designed worlds. Arguments may also come from current scientific or historical episodes in science.

- Construct an oral and written argument or counterarguments based on data and evidence. (HS-ESS2-7)

Disciplinary Core Ideas

ESS1.B: Earth and the Solar System
- Cyclical changes in the shape of Earth’s orbit around the sun, together with changes in the tilt of the planet’s axis of rotation, both occurring over hundreds of thousands of years, have altered the intensity and distribution of sunlight falling on the earth. These phenomena cause a cycle of ice ages and other gradual climate changes. (secondary to HS-ESS2-4)

ESS2.A: Earth Materials and Systems
- Earth’s systems, being dynamic and interacting, cause feedback effects that can increase or decrease the original changes (HS-ESS2-2)
- Evidence from deep probes and seismic waves, reconstructions of historical changes in Earth’s surface and its magnetic field, and an understanding of physical and chemical processes lead to a model of Earth with a hot but solid inner core, a liquid outer core, a solid mantle and crust. Motions of the mantle and its plates occur primarily through thermal convection, which involves the cycling of matter due to the outward flow of energy from Earth’s interior and gravitational movement of dense materials toward the surface. (HS-ESS2-3)

ESS2.B: Plate Tectonics and Large-Scale System Interactions
- The radioactive decay of unstable isotopes continually generates new energy within Earth’s crust and mantle, providing the primary source of the heat that drives mantle convection. Plate tectonics can be viewed as the surface expression of mantle convection. (HS-ESS2-3)

ESS2.C: The Roles of Water in Earth’s Surface Processes
- The abundance of liquid water on Earth’s surface and its unique combination of physical and chemical properties are central to the planet’s dynamics. These properties include water’s exceptional capacity to absorb, store, and release large amounts of energy, transmit sunlight, expand upon freezing, dissolve and transport materials, and lower the viscosities and melting points of rocks. (HS-ESS2-5)

ESS2.D: Weather and Climate
- The foundation for Earth’s global climate systems is the electromagnetic radiation from the sun, as well as its reflection, absorption, storage, and redistribution among the atmosphere, ocean, and land systems, and this energy’s re-radiation into space. (HS-ESS2-2, HS-ESS2-4)
- Gradual atmospheric changes were due to plants and other organisms that captured carbon dioxide and released oxygen. (HS-ESS2-6, HS-ESS2-7)

Crosscutting Concepts

Cause and Effect
- Empirical evidence is required to differentiate between cause and correlation and make claims about specific causes and effects. (HS-ESS2-4)

Energy and Matter
- The total amount of energy and matter in closed systems is conserved. (HS-ESS2-6)
- Energy drives the cycling of matter within and between systems. (HS-ESS2-3)

Structure and Function
- The functions and properties of natural and designed objects and systems can be inferred from their overall structure, the way their components are shaped and used, and the molecular substructures of its various materials. (HS-ESS2-5)

Stability and Change
- Much of science deals with constructing explanations of how things change and how they remain stable. (HS-ESS2-7)
- Change and rates of change can be quantified and modeled over very short or very long periods of time. Some system changes are irreversible. (HS-ESS2-1)
- Feedback (negative or positive) can stabilize or destabilize a system. (HS-ESS2-2)

Connections to Nature of Science

Scientific Knowledge is Based on Empirical Evidence
- Scientific knowledge is based on empirical evidence. (HS-ESS2-7)

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### HS.Earth’s Systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ESS2-3</th>
<th></th>
<th>Influence of Engineering, Technology, and Science on Society and the Natural World</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Science disciplines share common rules of evidence used to evaluate explanations about natural systems. (HS-ESS2-3)</td>
<td>• Changes in the atmosphere due to human activity have increased carbon dioxide concentrations and thus affect climate. (HS-ESS2-6)</td>
<td>• New technologies can have deep impacts on society and the environment, including some that were not anticipated. Analysis of costs and benefits is a critical aspect of decisions about technology. (HS-ESS2-2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Science includes the process of coordinating patterns of evidence with current theory. (HS-ESS2-3)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### ESS2.E: Biogeology

- The many dynamic and delicate feedbacks between the biosphere and other Earth systems cause a continual co-evolution of Earth’s surface and the life that exists on it. (HS-ESS2-7)

#### PS4.A: Wave Properties

Geologists use seismic waves and their reflection at interfaces between layers to probe structures deep in the planet. (secondary to HS-ESS2-3)

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### Scientific Investigations Use a Variety of Methods
- Science investigations use diverse methods and do not always use the same set of procedures to obtain data. (HS-ESS3-5)
- New technologies advance scientific knowledge. (HS-ESS3-5)

### Scientific Knowledge is Based on Empirical Evidence
- Science knowledge is based on empirical evidence. (HS-ESS3-5)
- Science arguments are strengthened by multiple lines of evidence supporting a single explanation. (HS-ESS2-4), (HS-ESS3-5)

### Analyzing and Interpreting Data
Analyzing data in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to using, synthesizing, and developing models to predict and show relationships among variables between systems and their components in the natural and designed world(s).
- Analyze data using computational models in order to make valid and reliable scientific claims. (HS-ESS3-5)

### Disciplinary Core Ideas

#### ESS1.B: Earth and the Solar System
- Cyclic changes in the shape of Earth's orbit around the sun, together with changes in the tilt of the planet's axis of rotation, both occurring over hundreds of thousands of years, have altered the intensity and distribution of sunlight falling on the earth. These phenomena cause a cycle of ice ages and other gradual climate changes. *(secondary to HS-ESS2-4)*

#### ESS2.A: Earth Materials and Systems
- The geological record shows that changes to global and regional climate can be caused by interactions among changes in the sun's energy output or Earth's orbit, tectonic events, ocean circulation, volcanic activity, glaciers, vegetation, and human activities. These changes can occur on a variety of time scales from sudden (e.g., volcanic ash clouds) to intermediate (ice ages) to very long-term (Cyclical and tectonic cycles).

#### ESS2.D: Weather and Climate
- The foundation for Earth's global climate systems is the electromagnetic radiation from the sun, as well as its reflection, absorption, storage, and redistribution among the atmosphere, ocean, and land systems, and this energy's re-radiation into space. *(HS-ESS2-4),(secondary to HS-ESS2-2)*
- Changes in the atmosphere due to human activity have increased carbon dioxide concentrations and thus affect climate. *(HS-ESS2-6),(HS-ESS2-4)*

#### ESS3.D: Global Climate Change
- Though the magnitudes of human impacts are greater than they have ever been, so too are human abilities to model, predict, and manage current and future impacts. *(HS-ESS3-5)*

### Crosscutting Concepts

#### Cause and Effect
- Empirical evidence is required to differentiate between cause and correlation and make claims about specific causes and effects. *(HS-ESS2-4)*

#### Stability and Change
- Change and rates of change can be quantified and modeled over very short or very long periods of time. Some system changes are irreversible. *(HS-ESS3-5)*

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*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.*
Students who demonstrate understanding can:

**HS-ESS3-1. Construct an explanation based on evidence for how the availability of natural resources, occurrence of natural hazards, and changes in climate have influenced human activity.**  
[Clarification Statement: Examples of key natural resources include access to fresh water (such as rivers, lakes, and groundwater), regions of fertile soils such as river deltas, and high concentrations of minerals and fossil fuels. Examples of natural hazards can be from interior processes (such as volcanic eruptions and earthquakes), surface processes (such as tsunamis, mass wasting and soil erosion), and severe weather (such as hurricanes, floods, and droughts). Examples of results of changes in climate that can affect populations or drive mass migrations include changes to sea level, regional patterns of temperature and precipitation, and the types of crops and livestock that can be raised.]

**HS-ESS3-2. Evaluate competing design solutions for developing, managing, and utilizing energy and mineral resources based on cost-benefit ratios.**  
[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the conservation, recycling, and reuse of resources (such as minerals and metals) where possible, and on minimizing impacts where it is not. Examples include developing best practices for agricultural soil use, mining (for coal, tar sands, and oil shales), and pumping (for petroleum and natural gas). Science knowledge includes what can happen in natural systems—not what should happen.]

**HS-ESS3-3. Create a computational simulation to illustrate the relationships among management of natural resources, the sustainability of human populations, and biodiversity.**  
[Clarification Statement: Examples of factors that affect the management of natural resources include costs of resource extraction and waste management, per-capita consumption, and the development of new technologies. Examples of factors that affect human sustainability include agricultural efficiency, levels of conservation, and urban planning.]  
[Assessment Boundary: Assessment for computational simulations is limited to using provided multi-parameter programs or constructing simplified spreadsheet calculations.]

**HS-ESS3-4. Evaluate or refine a technological solution that reduces impacts of human activities on natural systems.**  
[Clarification Statement: Examples of data on the impacts of human activities could include the quantities and types of pollutants released, changes to biomass and species diversity, or areal changes in land surface use (such as for urban development, agriculture and livestock, or surface mining). Examples for limiting future impacts could range from local efforts (such as reducing, reusing, and recycling resources) to large-scale geoenengineering design solutions (such as altering global temperatures by making large-scale changes to the atmosphere or ocean).]

**HS-ESS3-6. Use a computational representation to illustrate the relationships among Earth systems and how those relationships are being modified due to human activity.**  
[Clarification Statement: Examples of Earth systems to be considered are the hydrosphere, atmosphere, cryosphere, geosphere, and/or biosphere. An example of the far-reaching impacts from a human activity is how an increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide results in an increase in photosynthetic biomass on land and an increase in ocean acidification, with resulting impacts on sea organism health and marine populations.]  
[Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include running computational representations but is limited to using the published results of scientific computational models.]

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**Science and Engineering Practices**

**Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking**

Mathematical and computational thinking in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progressions to using algebraic thinking and analysis, a range of linear and nonlinear functions including trigonometric functions, exponentials and logarithms, and computational tools for statistical analysis to analyze, represent, and model data. Simple computational simulations are created and used based on mathematical models of basic assumptions.

- Create a computational model or simulation of a phenomenon, designed device, process, or system. (HS-ESS3-3)
- Use a computational representation of phenomena or design solutions to describe and/or support claims and/or explanations. (HS-ESS3-6)

**Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions**

Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progressions to explanations and designs that are supported by multiple and independent student-generated sources of evidence consistent with scientific knowledge, principles, and theories.

- Construct an explanation based on valid and reliable evidence obtained from a variety of sources (including students’ own investigations, models, theories, simulations, peer review) and the assumption that theories and laws that describe the natural world operate today as they did in the past and will continue to do so in the future. (HS-ESS3-1)
- Design or refine a solution to a complex real-world problem, based on scientific knowledge, student-generated sources of evidence, prioritized criteria, and tradeoff considerations. (HS-ESS3-4)

**Engaging in Argument from Evidence**

Engaging in argument from evidence in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progressions to using appropriate and sufficient evidence and scientific reasoning to defend and critique claims and explanations about natural and designed world(s). Arguments may also come from current scientific or historical episodes in science.

- Evaluate competing design solutions to a real-world problem based on scientific ideas and principles, empirical evidence, and logical arguments regarding relevant factors (e.g. economic, societal, environmental, aesthetic, and/or social, cultural, and environmental impacts. (-secondary to HS-ESS3-2)
### HS.Human Impacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Connections to Nature of Science</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Science is a Human Endeavor</strong></td>
<td>- Scientific knowledge is a result of human endeavors, imagination, and creativity. (HS-ESS3-3)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Science Addresses Questions About the Natural and Material World</strong></td>
<td>- Science and technology may raise ethical issues for which science, by itself, does not provide answers and solutions. (HS-ESS3-2)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Science knowledge indicates what can happen in natural systems—not what should happen. The latter involves ethics, values, and human decisions about the use of knowledge. (HS-ESS3-2)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Many decisions are not made using science alone, but rely on social and cultural contexts to resolve issues. (HS-ESS3-2)</td>
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### Scientific Investigations Use a Variety of Methods
- Science investigations use diverse methods and do not always use the same set of procedures to obtain data. (HS-ESS3-5)
- New technologies advance scientific knowledge. (HS-ESS3-5)
- Scientific inquiry is characterized by a common set of values that include: logical thinking, precision, open-mindedness, objectivity, skepticism, replicability of results, and honest and ethical reporting of findings.

### Scientific Knowledge is Based on Empirical Evidence
- Science knowledge is based on empirical evidence. (HS-ESS3-5)
- Science arguments are strengthened by multiple lines of evidence supporting a single explanation. (HS-ESS3-5)

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*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.*
HS.Engineering Design

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

**HS-ETS1-1.** Analyze a major global challenge to specify qualitative and quantitative criteria and constraints for solutions that account for societal needs and wants.

**HS-ETS1-2.** Design a solution to a complex real-world problem by breaking it down into smaller, more manageable problems that can be solved through engineering.

**HS-ETS1-3.** Evaluate a solution to a complex real-world problem based on prioritized criteria and trade-offs that account for a range of constraints, including cost, safety, reliability, and aesthetics, as well as possible social, cultural, and environmental impacts.

**HS-ETS1-4.** Use a computer simulation to model the impact of proposed solutions to a complex real-world problem with numerous criteria and constraints on interactions within and between systems relevant to the problem.

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**Science and Engineering Practices**

**Asking Questions and Defining Problems**

Asking questions and defining problems in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to formulating, refining, and evaluating empirically testable questions and design problems using models and simulations.

- Analyze complex real-world problems by specifying criteria and constraints for successful solutions. (HS-ETS1-1)

**Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking**

Mathematical and computational thinking in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to using algebraic thinking and analysis, a range of linear and nonlinear functions including trigonometric functions, exponentials and logarithms, and computational tools for statistical analysis to analyze, represent, and model data. Simple computational simulations are created and used based on mathematical models of basic assumptions.

- Use mathematical models and/or computer simulations to predict the effects of a design solution on systems and/or the interactions between systems. (HS-ETS1-4)

**Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions**

Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to explanations and designs that are supported by multiple and independent student-generated sources of evidence consistent with scientific ideas, principles and theories.

- Design a solution to a complex real-world problem, based on scientific knowledge, student-generated sources of evidence, prioritized criteria, and tradeoff considerations. (HS-ETS1-2)

- Evaluate a solution to a complex real-world problem, based on scientific knowledge, student-generated sources of evidence, prioritized criteria, and tradeoff considerations. (HS-ETS1-3)

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**Disciplinary Core Ideas**

**ETS1.A: Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems**

- Criteria and constraints also include satisfying any requirements set by society, such as taking issues of risk mitigation into account, and they should be quantified to the extent possible and stated in such a way that one can tell if a given design meets them. (HS-ETS1-1)

- Humanity faces major global challenges today, such as the need for supplies of clean water and food or for energy sources that minimize pollution, which can be addressed through engineering. These global challenges also may have manifestations in local communities. (HS-ETS1-1)

**ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions**

- When evaluating solutions, it is important to take into account a range of constraints, including cost, safety, reliability, and aesthetics, and to consider social, cultural, and environmental impacts. (HS-ETS1-3)

- Both physical models and computers can be used in various ways to aid in the engineering design process. Computers are useful for a variety of purposes, such as running simulations to test different ways of solving a problem or to see which one is most efficient or economical; and in making a persuasive presentation to a client about how a given design will meet his or her needs. (HS-ETS1-4)

**ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution**

- Criteria may need to be broken down into simpler ones that can be approached systematically, and decisions about the priority of certain criteria over others (trade-offs) may be needed. (HS-ETS1-2)

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**Crosscutting Concepts**

**Systems and System Models**

- Models (e.g., physical, mathematical, computer models) can be used to simulate systems and interactions—including energy, matter, and information flows—within and between systems at different scales. (HS-ETS1-4)

**Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science**

**Influence of Science, Engineering, and Technology on Society and the Natural World**

- New technologies can have deep impacts on society and the environment, including some that were not anticipated. Analysis of costs and benefits is a critical aspect of decisions about technology. (HS-ETS1-1) (HS-ETS1-3)

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Connections to other DCIs in this grade-level: will be available on or before April 26, 2013.

Articulation of DCIs across grade-levels: will be available on or before April 26, 2013.

Connections to HS-ETS1.A: Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems include:

- Physical Science: HS-PS2-3, HS-PS3-3

Connections to HS-ETS1.B: Designing Solutions to Engineering Problems include:

- Earth and Space Science: HS-ESS3-2, HS-ESS3-4, Life Science: HS-LS2-7, HS-LS4-6

Connections to HS-ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution include:

- Physical Science: HS-PS1-6, HS-PS2-3