

3-5 Science Curriculum

Third Grade

Human Body	The skeletal and muscular systems work together to provide the body structure, protection, and a wide range of movements. Skin is the largest organ of the human body.
Objects in the Sky	The Earth is part of the solar system. An object's changing shadow indicates apparent movement of the sun across the sky. There are patterns of stars in the sky called constellations. Moon phases follow a predictable pattern.
Changes	Materials can undergo various changes such as freezing or melting. The production of gas indicates a chemical change has occurred.
Plants	Plants have a life cycle. Plant parts have specific functions. Soil has properties such as color, texture, and capacity to hold water, which may promote the growth of some plants and hinder the growth of others.

Fourth Grade

Magnetism & Electricity	Magnets interact with all things made of iron and with other magnets to produce motion without touching (e.g., like poles repel, while opposites attract). Electrically charged objects push and pull on other electrically charged objects to produce motion.
Earth Materials	Minerals can be identified using tests for physical properties of hardness, color, luster, and streak. Rocks are classified as metamorphic, sedimentary, or igneous. Fossils provide evidence of Earth's early environments and the organisms that lived long ago.
Landforms	The surface of the Earth is constantly changing. Some changes are slow such as erosion and weathering. Other changes are rapid such as flooding, landslides, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.
Animal Studies	Animals meet their needs by using behaviors in response to information received from the environment.

Fifth Grade

Motion and Design	Factors such as gravity, friction, or a change in mass affect the motion of objects.
Human Body Systems	Some traits are learned while others are inherited. Inherited traits are passed from one generation to the next. The body is comprised of many systems which perform specific functions necessary for life. These systems include the respiratory, digestive, circulatory, skeletal, and muscular systems.
Investigating Weather Systems	Weather data can be collected and used to compare weather patterns and to predict upcoming weather events. Local (NC) weather is influenced by the Jet Stream, global wind patterns, and the Gulf Stream. This unit of also includes the water cycle and a study of heat transfer.
Ecosystems	Common ecosystems, including estuaries, oceans, lakes and ponds, forests, and grasslands, have distinct characteristics. Organisms in an ecosystem can be classified as producers, consumers, or decomposers. Humans can adapt their behavior in order to conserve natural resources (e.g., recycling).