

Unit 1 - What Is Science?

- Students build a foundation around what scientists do and who can be a scientist.
- Critical for setting the foundation around NGSS instruction throughout the school year.

Unit 2 - Life Science: Plant Shapes

- Students explore their natural surroundings with nature hunts and garden planting. They examine the shapes and parts of plants and begin to ask questions about what purpose these parts serve, how the shape of the parts helps them accomplish this purpose, and how the shapes of young plants are similar to the shapes of their parents.
 - Students will...
 - 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.
 - make observations to construct an evidence-based account that young plants and animals are like, but not exactly like, their parents.

Unit 3 - Life Science: Animal Sounds

- Students observe the behavior of parents and babies, noticing patterns in how they communicate. They explore the nature of sound, notice the physical parts of animals that produce sounds, and construct physical models that mimic animal sounds.
- Students will
 - read texts and use media to determine patterns in behavior of parents and offspring that help offspring survive.
 - make observations to construct an evidence-based account that young plants and animals are like, but not exactly like, their parents.
 - plan and conduct investigations to provide evidence that vibrating materials can make sound and that sound can make materials vibrate.
 - use tools and materials to design and build a device that uses light or sound to solve the problem of communicating over a distance

Unit 4 - Physical Science: Shadows and Light

- Students plan and conduct investigations of how light travels and interacts with different objects. They use these observations as the foundation for constructing models of how people see.
- Students will...
 - make observations to construct an evidence-based account that objects can be seen only when illuminated.
 - plan and conduct an investigation to determine the effect of placing objects made with different materials in the path of a beam of light.

Unit 5 - Earth Science: Patterns of Motion of Objects in the Sky

- Students track the motions of the Sun, Moon, and stars, noticing patterns in how sunlight varies throughout the seasons and Moon phases change over the month. They analyze their data to develop a model that predicts the position of objects.
- Students will...
 - use observations of the sun, moon, and stars to describe patterns that can be predicted.
 - make observations at different times of year to relate the amount of daylight to the time of year.