

Science 3rd Grade

The third grade science curriculum is comprised of Life Science, Earth Science, and Physical Science. Approximately 180 min. per week is spent on science during the weeks that science is studied. Science and Social Studies are alternated in blocks throughout the year. Each of these two subjects is studied for a total of a semester by the end of the year.

Text: Discovery Works Houghton Mifflin Co., 2000

I. Life Science

A. Life Cycles of Animals

1. Define life cycle
2. Label parts of an egg
3. Identify traits as either learned or inherited
4. List the stages of an animal's life cycle
5. List the stages of complete and incomplete metamorphosis in the life cycle of insects.
6. Describe adaptations animals have that help them survive

B. Life Cycles of Plants

1. List the stages in the life cycle of a flowering plant
2. List the stages in the life cycle of a conifer
3. Make a seed germinate
4. Name the parts of a flower and cone
5. Describe ways plants reproduce
6. Describe how plants respond to their environment

C. Relationships Among Living Things

1. Compare and contrast the needs of living things
2. Classify living things by what they eat
3. Create a food chain

D. Adaptations of Living Things

1. Describe how living things get their food
2. List adaptations that plants and animals use as protection

E. Living Things in the Environment

1. Describe how living things change their environment
2. Explain why some animals migrate
3. Compare and contrast dormancy and hibernation
4. Create a diorama depicting plants and animals in a habitat

II. Earth Science

A. Air as a Natural Resource

1. Define natural resources

2. Classify natural resources
 3. Explain the importance of the atmosphere
- B. Water on Earth
1. Describe the water cycle
 2. Draw the water cycle
 3. Describe how water is cleaned
- C. Land as a Natural Resource
1. Describe fast and slow changes to the Earth's surface
 2. Name and describe different types of soil
- D. Comparing Sun, Moon, and Earth
1. Compare and contrast the sun, moon, and Earth
 2. Describe what it is like on the moon
 3. Define and describe the sun as a star
 4. Identify types of energy given by the sun
 5. Explain how life on Earth is affected by the sun
- E. Motions of Earth and the Moon
1. Define and explain rotation
 2. Define and explain revolution
 3. Understand that rotation forms our days and revolution forms our year
 4. Name planets of the solar system in order
 5. Discuss phases of the moon
- F. Effects of Earth and Moon Motions
1. Understand causes of seasons
 2. Understand the seasons are opposite depending on what side of the equator one lives
 3. Describe an eclipse
 4. Discuss how the moon affects the tides

III. Physical Science

- A. All About Matter
1. Define matter
 2. Understand that matter has properties
 3. Name states of matter
- B. Energy and Change
1. Define energy
 2. Define heat
 3. Describe how heat moves
 4. Explain how heat changes matter
- C. Force, Motion, and Machines

1. Define force
2. Define machines
3. Explain purpose of machines
4. Describe types of simple machines