6th Grade

Change Over Time
How do people figure out that Earth and life on Earth have changed over time?

**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.

**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. (1A, 2Ai, ii, iii)*

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

Earth Systems
How do the materials in and on the earth change over time?

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

**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.

**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. (related to interior processes and surface processes)

Tectonic Plates
How does the movement of tectonic plates impact the surface of the Earth?

**MS ESS2-2** Construct an explanation based on evidence for how geoscience processes have changed Earth’s surface at varying time and spatial scales.

**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.

Solar System
What makes up our solar system?

**MS ESS 1-2** Develop and use a model to describe the role of gravity in the motions within galaxies and the solar system.

**MS ESS 1-3** Analyze and interpret data to determine scale properties of objects in the solar system.

Earth
What is Earth’s place in the universe?

**MS ESS 1-2** Develop and use a model to describe the role of gravity in the motions within galaxies and the solar system.

**MS ESS 1-3** Analyze and interpret data to determine scale properties of objects in the solar system.

How can the motion of the Earth explain seasons and eclipses?

**MS ESS 1-1** Develop and use a model of the Earth-sun-moon system to describe the cyclic patterns of lunar phases, eclipses of the sun and moon, and seasons.

**MS ESS 1-2** Develop and use a model to describe the role of gravity in the motions within galaxies and the solar system.

Tectonic Plates
How does the movement of tectonic plates impact the surface of the Earth?

**MS ESS2-2** Construct an explanation based on evidence for how geoscience processes have changed Earth's surface at varying time and spatial scales.

**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.

*Refer to Evidence Statements in [www.nextgenscience.org](http://www.nextgenscience.org) (revised 7/13/2016)
Adapted from Achieve. (2016, January 28, 2016), from http://www.nextgenscience.org
6th Grade

How can one describe physical interactions between objects within a system?

**MS PS 2-1** Apply Newton’s Third Law to design a solution to a problem involving the motion of two colliding objects.

**MS PS 2-2** 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.

**MS PS 2-3** Ask questions about data to determine the factors that affect the strength of electric and magnetic forces.

**MS PS 2-4** Construct and present arguments using evidence to support the claim that gravitational interactions are attractive and depend on the masses of interacting objects.

**MS PS 2-5** 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.

**Structure/Function Relationships**

How do the structures of organisms contribute to life’s functions?

**MS LS 1-3** Use argument supported by evidence for how the body is a system of interacting subsystems composed of groups of cells. {Evidence Statement-2aii, 2aiii, 2aiv, 4ai (not cells), 4a (not cells), 4a (not cells)}

**MS LS 1-7** Develop a model to describe how food is rearranged through chemical reactions forming new molecules that support growth and/or release energy as this matter moves through an organism. (clarification statement: Emphasis is on describing that molecules are broken apart and put back together and that in this process energy is released.) (Assessment boundary: Assessment does not include details of the chemical reactions for photosynthesis or respiration.)

**Processing Information**

How is information processed in the body?

**MS LS 1-8** Gather and synthesize information that sensory receptors respond to stimuli by sending messages to the brain for immediate behavior or storage as memories.

**Engineering Design-Bundled as Appropriate**

**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.
7th Grade

Cells
How do the structures of organisms contribute to life’s functions?

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.

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.

MS LS1-3: Use argument supported by evidence for how the body is a system of interacting subsystems composed of groups of cells.

Growth, Development, and Reproduction of Organisms
How do organisms grow, develop, and reproduce?

MS LS1-4: Use argument based on empirical evidence and scientific reasoning to support an explanation for how characteristic animal behaviors and specialized plant structures affect the probability of successful reproduction of animals and plants respectively. (2A, @V, 3Ai, #ii, #iii)

MS LS1-5: Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence for how environmental and genetic factors influence the growth of organisms.

MS LS3-1: Develop and use a model to describe why structural changes to genes (mutations) located on chromosomes may affect proteins and may result in harmful, beneficial, or neutral effects to the structure and function of the organism.

MS LS3-2: Develop and use a model to describe why asexual reproduction results in offspring with identical genetic information and sexual reproduction results in offspring with genetic variation.

MS LS4-5 Gather and synthesize information about the technologies that have changed the way humans influence the inheritance of desired traits in organisms.

Natural Selection

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 (Emphasis is on the support for evolutionary relationships; changes in organisms)

MS LS4-2: Apply scientific ideas to construct an explanation for the anatomical similarities and differences among modern organism and between modern and fossil organisms to infer evolutionary relationships. (Emphasis is on support for evolutionary relationships; changes in organisms)

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.

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.

MS LS4-6: (i, ii, iii)* Use mathematical representations to support explanations of how natural selection many lead to increases and decreases of specific traits in populations over time

*Refer to evidence statements in www.nextscience.org

(revised 7/13/2016)
Adapted from Achieve. (2016, January 28), from http://www.nextgenscience.org

Molecular Structure

How can particles combine to produce a substance with different properties?

**MS PS1-1:** Develop models to describe the atomic composition of simple molecules and extended structures.

**MS PS1-3:** Gather and make sense of information to describe that synthetic materials come from natural resources and impact society.

Effects of Thermal Energy

How does thermal Energy affect particles?

**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.

What happens when new materials are formed? What stays the same and what changes?

**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.

**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.

**MS PS1-6:** Undertake a design project to construct, test, and modify a device that either releases or absorbs thermal energy by chemical processes.

Engineering Design-Bundled as Appropriate

**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.

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Energy Transfer
How can energy be transferred from one object or system to another?

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.
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.
MS PS3-5 Construct, use, and present arguments to support the claim that when the kinetic energy of an object changes, energy is transferred to or from the object.

Waves & Electromagnetic Radiation
What are the characteristic properties of waves that enable them to transfer energy?

MS PS4-1 Use mathematical representations to describe a simple model for waves that includes how the amplitude of a wave is related to the energy in a wave
MS PS4-2 Develop and use a model to describe that waves are reflected, absorbed, or transmitted through various materials.
MS PS4-3 Integrate qualitative scientific and technical information to support the claim that digitized signals are a more reliable way to encode and transmit information than analog signals. (not being tested)

Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems
How do organisms obtain and use matter and energy?

MS LS1-6 Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence for the role of photosynthesis in the cycling of matter and flow of energy into and out of organisms.
MS LS2-1 Analyze and interpret data to provide evidence for the effects of resource availability on organisms and populations of organisms in an ecosystem.
MS LS2-2 Construct an explanation that predicts patterns of interactions among organisms across multiple ecosystems.
MS LS2-4 Construct an argument supported by empirical evidence that changes to physical or biological components of an ecosystem affect populations.
MS LS2-5 Evaluate competing design solutions for maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services.

How do matter and energy move through an ecosystem?

MS LS1-7 Develop a model to describe how food is rearranged through chemical reactions forming new molecules that support growth and/or release energy as this matter moves through an organism.
MS LS2-3 Develop a model to describe the cycling of matter and flow of energy among living and nonliving parts of an ecosystem.

Energy Transfer
How can energy be transferred from one object or system to another?

MS PS3-3 Apply scientific principles to design, construct, and test a device that either minimizes or maximizes thermal energy transfer. (apply to weather and ecosystems unit)
MS PS3-4 Plan an investigation to determine the relations 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. (apply to weather and ecosystems unit)
8th Grade

Weather & Climate
What factors interact and influence weather and climate?

**MS ESS2-5** Collect data to provide evidence for how the motions and complex interactions of air masses results in changes in weather conditions.

**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.

**MS ESS3-5** Ask questions to clarify evidence of the factors that have caused the rise in global temperatures over the past century.

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

**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.

Human Impact
How can natural hazards be predicted?

**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. (related to severe weather events)

**How do human activities affect Earth systems?**

**MS ESS3-3** Apply scientific principles to design a method for monitoring and minimizing a human impact on the environment.

**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.

Engineering Design-Bundled as Appropriate

**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.

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