MS-ESS2-1 Earth’s Systems

How to read the standards »

MS-ESS2-1 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.]

The performance expectation above was 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.

- **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.

- **Crosscutting Concepts**
  - 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.

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

MS-PS1-5 Matter and its Interactions

How to read the standards »

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MS-PS1-5 Matter and its Interactions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students who demonstrate understanding can:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The performance expectation above was 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 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.

### Connections to Nature of Science
Science Models, Laws, Mechanisms, and Theories Explain Natural Phenomena
- Laws are regularities or mathematical descriptions of natural phenomena.

### Disciplinary Core Ideas
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.
- The total number of each type of atom is conserved, and thus the mass does not change.

### Crosscutting Concepts
Energy and Matter
- Matter is conserved because atoms are conserved in physical and chemical processes.

Connections to other DCIs in this grade-band:
MS.LS1.C; MS.LS2.B; MS.ESS2.A

Articulation of DCIs across grade-bands:
5.PS1.B; HS.PS1.B

Common Core State Standards Connections:
ELA/Literacy - RST.6-8.7 Integrate quantitative or technical information expressed in words in a text with a version of that information expressed visually (e.g., in a flowchart, diagram, model, graph, or table). (MS-PS1-5)
Mathematics - MP.2 Reason abstractly and quantitatively. (MS-PS1-5)
MP.4 Model with mathematics. (MS-PS1-5)
6.RP.A.3 Use ratio and rate reasoning to solve real-world and mathematical problems. (MS-PS1-5)

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


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### 4-PS4-2 Waves and Their Applications in Technologies for Information Transfer

**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.*

The performance expectation above was 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 a model to describe phenomena.

**Disciplinary Core Ideas**
- PS4.B: Electromagnetic Radiation
  - An object can be seen when light reflected from its surface enters the eyes.

**Crosscutting Concepts**
- Cause and Effect
  - Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified.

**Connections to other DCIs in fourth grade:** N/A

**Articulation of DCIs across grade-levels:**

**Common Core State Standards Connections:**
- **ELA/Literacy - SL.4.5** Add audio recordings and visual displays to presentations when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or themes. *(4-PS4-2)*
- **Mathematics - MP.4** Model with mathematics. *(4-PS4-2)*
- **4.G.A.1** Draw points, lines, line segments, rays, angles (right, acute, obtuse), and perpendicular and parallel lines. Identify these in two-dimensional figures. *(4-PS4-2)*

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

5-LS2-1 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics

How to read the standards »

5-LS2-1  Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

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 expectation above was 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>Modeling in 3–5 builds on K–2 models and progresses to building and revising simple models and using models to represent events and design solutions.</td>
<td>• 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.</td>
<td><strong>Systems and System Models</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Science explanations describe the mechanisms for natural events.</td>
<td>LS2.B: Cycles of Matter and Energy Transfer in Ecosystems</td>
<td>• A system can be described in terms of its components and their interactions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Connections to the Nature of Science</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Science Models, Laws, Mechanisms, and Theories Explain Natural Phenomena</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Connections to other DCIs in fifth grade:</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.ESS2.A , 5.ESS1.A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Articulation of DCIs across grade-levels:</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connections to other DCIs in fifth grade:</td>
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<td>Articulation of DCIs across grade-levels:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Core State Standards Connections:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELA/Literacy -</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RI.5.7</td>
<td>Draw on information from multiple print or digital sources, demonstrating the ability to locate an answer to a question quickly or to solve a problem efficiently. (5-LS2-1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL.5.5</td>
<td>Include multimedia components (e.g., graphics, sound) and visual displays in presentations when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or themes. (5-LS2-1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics -</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP.2</td>
<td>Reason abstractly and quantitatively. (5-LS2-1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP.4</td>
<td>Model with mathematics. (5-LS2-1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

MS-ESS2-2 Earth’s Systems

How to read the standards »

MS-ESS2-2 Earth’s Systems

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

**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.]

The performance expectation above was 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>Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions</td>
<td><strong>ESS2.A:</strong> Earth’s Materials and Systems</td>
<td><strong>Scale Proportion and Quantity</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>• 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.</td>
<td>• Time, space, and energy phenomena can be observed at various scales using models to study systems that are too large or too small.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 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 nature operate today as they did in the past and will continue to do so in the future.</td>
<td><strong>ESS2.C:</strong> The Roles of Water in Earth’s Surface Processes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Water’s movements—both on the land and underground—cause weathering and erosion, which change the land’s surface features and create underground formations.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Connections to other DCIs in this grade band:

- MS.PS1.B ; MS.LS2.B

Articulation of DCIs across grade bands:


Common Core State Standards Connections:

- **ELA/Literacy** -
  - RST.6-8.1 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content. (MS-ESS2-2)
  - SL.8.5 Use multimedia components and visual displays in presentations to clarify claims and findings and emphasize salient points. (MS-ESS2-2)
  - **Mathematics** -
  - MP.2 Reason abstractly and quantitatively. (MS-ESS2-2)
  - 6.EE.B.6 Use variables to represent numbers and write expressions when solving a real-world or mathematical problem; understand that a variable can represent an unknown number, or, depending on the purpose at hand, any number in a specified set. (MS-ESS2-2)
  - 7.EE.B.4 Use variables to represent quantities in a real-world or mathematical problem, and construct simple equations and inequalities to solve problems by reasoning about the quantities. (MS-ESS2-2)

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

4-PS3-1 Energy

How to read the standards »

4-PS3-1 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.]

The performance expectation above was 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>Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions</strong></td>
<td><strong>PS3.A: Definitions of Energy</strong></td>
<td><strong>Energy and Matter</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>The faster a given object is moving, the more energy it possesses.</td>
<td>Energy can be transferred in various ways and between objects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Use evidence (e.g., measurements, observations, patterns) to construct an explanation.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Connections to other DCIs in fourth grade: N/A |

Articulation of DCIs across grade-levels: MS.PS3.A

Common Core State Standards Connections:

- **ELA/Literacy**
  - RI.4.1 Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text. (4-PS3-1)
  - RI.4.3 Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text. (4-PS3-1)
  - RI.4.9 Integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably. (4-PS3-1)
- **W.4.2** Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly. (4-PS3-1)
- **W.4.8** Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; take notes and categorize information, and provide a list of sources. (4-PS3-1)
- **W.4.9** Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. (4-PS3-1)

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

**MS-LS1-6 From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes**

**How to read the standards**

**MS-LS1-6 From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes**

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

**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. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on tracing movement of matter and flow of energy.]

[Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include the biochemical mechanisms of photosynthesis.]

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

### Science and Engineering Practices

**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.

### Disciplinary Core Ideas

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

- Plants, algae (including phytoplankton), and many microorganisms use 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.

**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)

### Crosscutting Concepts

**Energy and Matter**

- Within a natural system, the transfer of energy drives the motion and/or cycling of matter.

### Connections to Nature of Science

**Scientific Knowledge is Based on Empirical Evidence**

- Science knowledge is based upon logical connections between evidence and explanations.

### Connections to other DCIs in this grade-band:

**MS.PS1.B: MS.ESS2.A**

### Articulation of DCIs across grade-bands:


### Common Core State Standards Connections:

**ELA/Literacy -**

**RST.6-8.1** Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts. (MS-LS1-6)

**RST.6-8.2** Determine the central ideas or conclusions of a text; provide an accurate summary of the text distinct from prior knowledge or opinions. (MS-LS1-6)

**WHST.6-8.2** Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content. (MS-LS1-6)

**WHST.6-8.9** Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. (MS-LS1-6)

**Mathematics -**

**6.EE.C.9** Use variables to represent two quantities in a real-world problem that change in relationship to one another; write an equation to express one quantity, thought of as the dependent variable, in terms of the other quantity, thought of as the independent variable. Analyze the relationship between the dependent and independent variables using graphs and tables, and relate these to the equation. (MS-LS1-6)

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