



Grade 8 Science – Course 3

Unit # 2 Life Science

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Topic 4 (15 days) – Genes and Heredity

Topic 5 (18 days) – Natural Selection and Changes Over Time

Unit 1 Overview Students will explore patterns of reproduction and inheritance through investigations of advances in the fields of genetics and inheritance. Students will discover how inherited alleles are related to an organism's traits and how probability is related to inheritance. Students will then explore the relationship between genes, chromosomes, and inheritance. Models such as a pedigree chart will be used to track inheritance. DNA replication, protein synthesis, and trait variations due to changes in DNA and RNA will be introduced. Artificial selection, mutations, and the engineering of new traits will be investigated. Students will then use this information to explore the process that explains how organisms change over time. Students will investigate factors that drive natural selection and learn about evidence that supports the scientific theory of evolution. This will lead into the investigation of how genetics and trait variations influence a population as well as how species interactions affect evolution. Studying fossil evidence and modern technologies and DNA will provide new evidence about the theory of evolution.

Unit 2 NYSSLS Performance Expectations (PE)

MS-LS3-1. Develop and use a model to explain 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. [Clarification Statement: Mutations in body cells are not inherited. Emphasis is on conceptual understanding that changes in genetic material may result in making different proteins.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include specific changes at the molecular level, mechanisms for protein synthesis, or specific types of mutations.]

MS-LS3-2. Develop and use a model to describe how asexual reproduction results in offspring with identical genetic information and sexual reproduction results in offspring with genetic variation. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on using models such as diagrams and simulations to describe the cause and effect relationship of gene transmission from parent(s) to offspring.]

MS-LS4-5. Gather and synthesize information about the technologies that have changed the way humans influence the inheritance of desired traits in organisms. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on synthesizing information from reliable sources about the influence of humans on genetic outcomes in artificial selection (such as genetic modification, selective breeding, gene therapy); and, on the impacts these technologies have on society.]

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. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on using simple probability statements and proportional reasoning to construct explanations.]

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. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on finding patterns of changes in the level of complexity of anatomical structures in organisms and the chronological order of fossil appearance in the rock layers.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include the names of individual species or geological eras in the fossil record.]

MS-LS4-2. Apply scientific ideas to construct an explanation for the anatomical similarities and differences among modern organisms and between modern and fossil organisms to infer evolutionary relationships. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on explanations of the evolutionary relationships among organisms in terms of similarity or differences of the gross appearance of anatomical structures as evidence of common ancestry.]

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. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on inferring general patterns of relatedness among embryos of different organisms by comparing the macroscopic appearance of diagrams or pictures.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment of comparisons is limited to gross appearance of anatomical structures in embryological development.]

MS-LS4-6. Use mathematical representations to support explanations of how natural selection may lead to increases and decreases of specific traits in populations over time. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on using mathematical models, probability statements, and proportional reasoning to support explanations of trends in changes to populations over time.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include Hardy Weinberg calculations.]

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.

Unit 1 NYSSLS Science and Engineering Practices (SEP)

- Developing and Using Models
- Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information
- Analyzing and Interpreting Data
- Engaging in Argument from Evidence
- Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions
- Planning and Carrying Out Investigations
- Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking

Unit 1 NYSSLS Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCI)

LS3.A: Inheritance of Traits

- Genes are located in the chromosomes of cells, with each chromosome pair containing two variants of each of many distinct genes. Each distinct gene chiefly controls the production of specific proteins, which in turn affects the traits of the individual. Changes (mutations) to genes can result in changes to proteins, which can affect the structures and functions of the organism and thereby change traits (MS-LS3-1).
- Variations of inherited traits between parent and offspring arise from genetic differences that result from the subset of chromosomes (and therefore genes) inherited (MS-LS3-2).

LS1.B: Growth and Development of Organisms

- Organisms reproduce, either sexually or asexually, and transfer their genetic information to their offspring. (secondary to MS-LS3-2)
- Animals engage in characteristic behaviors that increase the odds of reproduction. (MS-LS1-4)
- Plants reproduce in a variety of ways, sometimes depending on animal behavior and specialized features for reproduction. (MS-LS1-4)
- Genetic factors as well as local conditions affect the growth of the adult plant. (MS-LS1-5)

LS3.B: Variation of Traits

- In sexually reproducing organisms, each parent contributes half of the genes acquired (at random) by the offspring. Individuals have two of each chromosome and hence two alleles of each gene, one acquired from each parent. These versions may be identical or may differ from each other. (MS-LS3-2)
- In addition to variations that arise from sexual reproduction, genetic information can be altered because of mutations. Some changes are beneficial, others are harmful, and some neutral to the organism. (MS-LS3-1)
- (NYSED) Mutations may result in changes to the structure and function of proteins. (MS-LS3-1)

LS4.B: Natural Selection

- In artificial selection, humans have the capacity to influence certain characteristics of organisms by selective breeding. One can choose desired parental traits determined by genes, which are then passed onto offspring. (MS-LS4-5)
- (NYSED) Natural selection can lead to an increase in the frequency of some traits and the decrease in the frequency of other traits. (MS-LS4-4)

LS4.C: Adaptation

● Adaptation by natural selection acting over generations is one important process by which species change over time in response to changes in environmental conditions. Traits that support successful survival and reproduction in the new environment become more common; those that do not become less common. Thus, the distribution of traits in a population changes. (MS-LS4-6)

LS4.A: Evidence of Common Ancestry and Diversity

- The collection of fossils and their placement in chronological order (e.g., through the location of the sedimentary layers in which they are found or through radioactive dating) is known as the fossil record. It documents the existence, diversity, extinction, and change of many life forms throughout the history of life on Earth. (MS-LS4-1)
- Anatomical similarities and differences between various organisms living today and between them and organisms in the fossil record, enable the reconstruction of evolutionary history and the inference of lines of evolutionary descent. (MS-LS4-2)
- Comparison of the embryological development of different species also reveals similarities that show relationships not evident in the fully-formed anatomy. (MS-LS4-3)

Unit 1 NYSSLS Cross Cutting Concepts (CCC)

- Patterns
- Cause and Effect
- Structure and Function

Resources

- Savvas Elevate Science Book NY Edition Course 3 Topics 4-5
- Savvas Easybridge (access via BPS Staff Resources or Clever)
- Savvas Lab materials
- <http://ngss.nsta.org/Classroom-Resources.aspx>

Measurement of Student Learning

- Lesson Quiz
- Topic Assessment and Remediation
- Evidence-Based Assessment
- Quest Rubrics
- Exam view Assessments

Savvas Elevate Science Supports

- Topic Differentiated Instruction in TE
- Topic Remediation Summary in TE
- ELL Support in TE
- ELL Vocabulary Support in TE

English Language Learners (ELL) Enhancements

To access [hyperlinked](#) material, you must be logged into your BPS Google Drive

Listening

- **Cross- Linguistic Practices:** Gives students opportunities to make connections between what they hear and their home language (For example, allow students to listen to a passage and identify cognates).
- **Activating Prior Knowledge** Activating prior knowledge means both eliciting from students what they already know and building initial knowledge that they need in order to access upcoming content.
- **Visuals** - GIFs, pictures- will assist students in understanding what they are listening to. Use **visual thinking strategies** to set the lens for learning.
- Video to review or introduce a topic – use **closed captioning** to help students see the words and pronunciations while they listen to the content.
- **Word stretching / Vowel stretching** when instructing allows student to listen closely to the pronunciation of the word.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Performance Level Descriptors this document provides teachers with a description of what output they can expect from students based on earned NYSESLAT levels in the modality of listening. <p>Speaking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sentence Stems/Frames - to begin a sentence - such as <i>Evolution is...</i> or <i>I think that evolution is...</i> ● Academic Conversation Starters: Have a visual of a list of academic sentence starters that students can refer to in a discussion. ● Choral Reading - To build fluency, self-confidence and motivation with reading/speaking. ● Create movement to go with the word. Movement can be a motivating factor, as well as a kinesthetic tool for conceptualizing the rhythm and flow of fluent reading while triggering brain function for optimal learning. ● Performance Level Descriptors This document provides teachers with a description of what output they can expect from students based on earned NYSESLAT levels in the modality of speaking. <p>Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supplementary Text to help reinforce concepts. ● Visual Aids - Pictures or models to support vocabulary words and concepts ● Video to review or introduce a topic - use closed captioning to help students read along while they listen to the content. ● 4 Square / Frayer models to help students gain a deeper understanding of vocabulary. ● Highlighting important text to assist students in answering questions after the reading. ● Chunking-Break reading of text into chunks or paragraphs ● Vocabulary Morphology- Morphology relates to the segmenting of words into affixes (prefixes and suffixes) and roots or base words, and the origins of words. Understanding that words connected by meaning can be connected by spelling can be critical to expanding a student’s vocabulary. ● Performance Level Descriptors this document provides teachers with a description of what output they can expect from students based on earned NYSESLAT levels in the modality of reading. <p>Instructional Accommodations (depending on the student’s needs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Extended time for tests in class, projects and assignments ● Directions read. Broken down as necessary ● Model how to complete the activity in the lesson ● Oral simplification of directions or questions ● Translated version of test when available. Student may have both version English and native language version ● Use of approved bilingual glossaries from NYS in each subject
<p>Special Education Modifications Special Education students must have accommodations as per Individual Educational Plan (IEP)</p>	<p>Instructional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pre-teach vocabulary ● Use picture vocabulary ● Scaffold Depth of Knowledge questions ● Provide copy of notes/notes in “cloze” form ● Use of Think, Pair, and Share strategy to help process information ● Scaffold written assignments with the use of graphic organizers ● Allow for multiple ways to respond (verbal, written, response board) ● Provide model of performance task ● Modify informational text to fit the needs of the students ● Provide a digital or paper interactive notebook ● Present complex tasks in multiple ways ● Provide mnemonic strategies for scientific concepts

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	<p><u>Technology:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Audio reading of text ● Text to type functions ● Videos to clarify/visualize science concepts ● Record class lecture/discussions and make accessible to student ● Nearpod- interactive presentations of notes <p><u>In Class Assessments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide multiple options for projects ● Use of timer in class ● Break all complex tasks into chunks
<p>Step Up to Writing Step Up to Writing Materials can be found in BPS Science K-12 Schoology Folder Grade 8 Resources Grade 8 SUTW materials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Easy Two-Column Notes ● Breaking Down Definitions ● Paragraph Frame- What I Learned ● Performance Level Descriptors this document provides teachers with a description of what output they can expect from students based on earned NYSESLAT levels in the modality of writing.
<p>Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Teaching (CLRT) in the Science Classroom</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Materials, resources, and/or discussions address diverse cultural backgrounds and real-world applications ● Artifacts (posters, charts, etc.) in the science classroom are representative of the cultures of the student population ● All students are given an opportunity to engage in science discourse ● Teacher demonstrates high expectations for all students