Unit 1: Classifying Matter

Grade 4: Science 2026-2027

(Unit Guide 2025-2026)

[Unit Overview]

Tools for Planning		
PLC Process Resources • Unit Internalization Protocol • TEA TEKS Guide • Lead4Ward Resources • Lead4Ward Field Guides - Content & SEPs	**Year-At-A-Glance/Pacing Calendar** • GR 4 Science YAAG 2026-2027 • GR 4 Science Suggested Pacing By Week 26-27	**Additional Planning Resources:** • Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) • Language Supports • Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) • [Materials List] Gr 4 Science Unit 1

Unit Description

Description: Students will explore the physical properties of matter, including temperature, mass, magnetism, relative density, and physical state. They will investigate a variety of mixtures, including solutions, and demonstrate that matter is conserved when mixtures are formed.
Suggested Unit Pacing: 16 Days (20- 25 minute class periods)
Number of Bundles: 2

PLC Q1 - Unit 7 Planning Guidance

Essential Questions	Enduring Understandings
➔ How can we classify matter based on physical properties? ➔ When is a mixture also a solution? ➔ How do we know that matter is always conserved in mixtures?	➔ Matter can be classified using observable physical properties, including temperature, mass, magnetism, relative density, and physical state. ➔ All solutions are mixtures, but not all mixtures are solutions. In a solution, one substance is dissolved, so the tiny pieces of one substance are evenly distributed into another substance.

	➔ Matter is always conserved in mixtures, so the mass of a mixture will be the same mass as the total mass of each component.

TEKS [District Recommended Essentials are in Bold Type]

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4.6 (Matter and Energy)- The student knows that matter has measurable physical properties that determine how matter is identified, classified, changed, and used.

- ➔ **4.6A classify and describe matter using observable physical properties, including temperature, mass, magnetism, relative density (the ability to sink or float in water), and physical state (solid, liquid, gas)**
- ➔ 4.6B investigate and compare a variety of mixtures, including solutions that are composed of liquids in liquids and solids in liquids; and
- ➔ 4.6C demonstrate that matter is conserved when mixtures such as soil and water or oil and water are formed.

Scientific & Engineering Practices:

- ➔ 4.1D use tools to observe, measure, test, and analyze information
- ➔ 4.1E collect observations and measurements as evidence

Recurring Themes and Concepts:

- ➔ 4.5(E) investigate how energy flows and matter cycles through systems and how matter is conserved

Essential ELPS:

- Learning Strategies 1C - use strategic learning techniques such as concept mapping, drawing, memorizing, comparing, contrasting, and reviewing to acquire grade-level vocabulary
- Listening 2H - understand implicit ideas and information based on grade-level learning expectations
- Speaking 3H - narrate, describe, and explain with increasing specificity and detail
- Reading 4J - demonstrate comprehension by employing inferential skills such as predicting, making connections, drawing inferences and conclusions from text and graphic sources, and finding supporting text evidence based on content area needs
- Writing 5G - narrate, describe, and explain with increasing specificity and detail to fulfill content areas' writing needs

PLC Q2 - Unit 7 Assessment Guidance

Unit Assessment Resources

[Unit Assessment] Gr 4 Sci Unit 1: Classifying Matter
- ➔ PISD Gr4 Science Unit 1 [2026-2027]
- ➔ PISD Gr4 Science Unit 1 [2026-2027] SPANISH
- ➔ Answer Key

Performance Task Resources

Other Assessment Resources

- ➔ TEA Assessed Curriculum- Elementary Science STAAR
- ➔ Elementary Science STAAR Blueprint
- ➔ Sample SCR Scoring Rubric & Guide
- ➔ Lead4Ward IQ Released Items Analysis Tool
- ➔ Elementary Science Gr 3-5 Supplemental Aids

Tools for Instruction

Teacher Resources
- TEA TEKS Guide
- Lead4Ward Field Guide - Properties of Matter (4.6ABC)
- Lead4Ward SEPs Field Guide
- Lead4Ward Instructional Strategies Playlist
- ELLevation

Student Resources
- HMH Resources (link to book)
- PhET Lab Simulations
- Elementary Science Gr 3-5 Supplemental Aids

Additional Tools
- Visual Non-Glossary
- Science - Digital Resources
- 5E Model and 3D Science Framework
- Safety Contract
  - English
  - SPANISH

Tier One

Bundle 1: Classifying Matter

Description: Students will measure physical properties of matter, including temperature, mass, magnetism, and relative density and will then explain how they used these properties to classify matter.
Pacing:

TEKS/I Can Statements (Q1)

TEKS:
- **4.6A classify and describe matter using observable physical properties, including temperature, mass, magnetism, relative density (the ability to sink or float in water), and physical state (solid, liquid, gas)**

Check for Understanding (Q2)

- [CFU 1] Physical Properties of Matter
- SPANISH

Activities (Q1)

- [Student Sheet] Gr4 U1 B1- Classifying Matter
- [SPANISH Student Sheet] Gr4 U1 B1- Classifying Matter

Resources (Q1)

- [Teacher Presentation] Gr4 U1 B1- Classifying Matter
- SPANISH [Teacher Presentation] Gr4 U1 B1- Classifying Matter
  - State of Matter Card Sort
  - SPANISH State of Matter Card Sort
  - Stations- Classifying Matter
  - Changes to States of Matter- Matching Activity
  - SPANISH Changes to States of Matter- Matching Activity
- Bridge Lesson Guidance Unit 1

(Review of Gr3 Assessed SE)

		Additional Practice (Q3)	**Challenge (Q4)**
		➔ Physical Properties- Vocabulary Dominoes ➔ SPANISHPhysical Properties- Vocabulary Dominoes ➔ States of Matter Folder Activity	
	Additional Tools	**Academic Vocabulary**	
	➔ [Resource] HMH: Teacher Science Background (4.6A)	➔ Matter ➔ Solid, Liquid, Gas ➔ Mass ➔ Temperature ➔ More/Less Dense States of Matter (Physical State) Physical Properties Volume Magnetism Sink/Float ➔ English Spanish	

Bundle 2: Mixtures & Solutions

Description: Students will investigate a variety of mixtures, including solutions, and demonstrate that matter is conserved when mixtures are formed.
Pacing:

TEKS/I Can Statements (Q1)	**Check for Understanding (Q2)**	
TEKS: ➔ 4.6B investigate and compare a variety of mixtures, including solutions that are composed of liquids in liquids and solids in liquids; and ➔ 4.6C demonstrate that matter is conserved when mixtures such as soil and water or oil and water are formed.	➔ [CFU 2] Mixtures and Solutions ➔ SPANISH	
	Activities (Q1)	**Resources (Q1)**
	➔ Student Sheet] Gr4 U1 B2- Mixtures and Solutions ➔ SPANISH Student Sheet] Gr4 U1 B2- Mixtures and Solutions	➔ [Teacher Presentation] Gr4 U1 B2- Mixtures and Solutions ➔ SPANISH [Teacher Presentation] Gr4 U1 B2- Mixtures and Solutions ◆ Solutions Lab- Will it Dissolve? Teacher Guide ◆ RLA Connection- What's the Difference - Mixtures and Solutions? ◆ SPANISH RLA Connection- What's the Difference - Mixtures and Solutions?

	Additional Practice (Q3)	Challenge (Q4)
	➔ VNG?	➔ Separating Mixtures Activity
Additional Tools	**Academic Vocabulary**	
➔ [Resource] HMH: Teacher Science Background (4.6B) ➔ [Resource] HMH: Teacher Science Background (4.6C)	➔ Matter ➔ Solid, Liquid, Gas ➔ Mixture ➔ Solution ➔ Conservation of Matter ➔ English Spanish	