

3rd Grade 2025-2026 Curriculum Guide

CMCSS 3rd Grade Science Curriculum Guide

Unit 1: Properties of Materials
Module 1: Describe Materials
August 6 - August 29 (16 days)

Standards

3.PS1.1 Develop a model of solids, liquids, and gases to describe that each state of matter is made of particles too small to be seen.

3.PS1.3 Construct an argument based on evidence that materials have both fixed and changing properties, some of which are useful for identification of a material.

3.ETS1.1 Design a solution to a real-world problem that includes specified criteria and constraints.

3.ETS1.2 Apply evidence or research to support a design solution.

Unit 1: Properties of Materials
Module 2: Changes to Materials
September 2 - September 23 (16 days)

Standards

3.PS1.2 Construct an explanation about the effects of heating and cooling a substance, differentiating between changes that can be reversed (i.e., freezing & melting) and those that cannot (e.g., baking a cake or burning fuel).

3.ETS1.1 Design a solution to a real-world problem that includes specified criteria and constraints.

3.ETS1.2 Apply evidence or research to support a design solution.

Unit 2: Forces Around Us
Module 3: Electricity and Magnetism
September 25 - October 24 (17 days)

Standards

3.PS2.1 Explain cause and effect relationships of forces that cannot be seen including interactions between two objects not in contact with each other (i.e., static electricity, magnetism and gravity).

3.PS3.3 Evaluate how magnets cause changes in the motion and position of objects, even when the objects are not touching the magnet.

3.ETS1.1 Design a solution to a real-world problem that includes specified criteria and constraints.

3.ETS1.2 Apply evidence or research to support a design solution.

Unit 3: Energy
Module 4: Energy Transfer
October 27 - November 14 (14 days)

Standards

3.PS3.1 Make observations of sound, light, heat, and motion to collect evidence that energy is present in a system.

3.PS3.2 Develop a model to show that energy can be transferred from place to place by electric currents in a system (e.g., open, closed, simple, parallel, series circuits).

3.ETS1.1 Design a solution to a real-world problem that includes specified criteria and constraints.

3.ETS1.2 Apply evidence or research to support a design solution.

Unit 4: Life Cycles and Traits Module 5: Plants November 17 - December 5 (12 days)
Standards
3.LS1.1 Use graphical representations to compare how species, including humans and other organism,s have unique and diverse life cycles.
3.LS1.2 Analyze the internal and external structures that aquatic and land organisms have to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.
3.ETS1.1 Design a solution to a real-world problem that includes specified criteria and constraints.
3.ETS1.2 Apply evidence or research to support a design solution.

Unit 4: Life Cycles and Traits Module 6: Animals December 8 - January 16 (19 days)
Standards
3.LS1.1 Use graphical representations to compare how species, including humans and other organisms, have unique and diverse life cycles.
3.LS1.2 Analyze the internal and external structures that aquatic and land organisms have to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.
3.LS2.1 Obtain information to compare various ways that groups organize (e.g., specialized roles for members vs same roles for members) to explain the benefits of animal group behavior.
3.ETS1.1 Design a solution to a real-world problem that includes specified criteria and constraints.
3.ETS1.2 Apply evidence or research to support a design solution.

Unit 5: Different Environments
Module 7: Organisms and the Environment
January 20 - February 6 (13 days)

Standards

3.LS2.1 Obtain information to compare various ways that groups organize (e.g., specialized roles for members vs same roles for members) to explain the benefits of animal group behavior.

3.LS4.1 Use evidence to explain the cause and effect relationship between a naturally changing habitat and how well an organism survives.

3.LS4.2 Use evidence to determine the changes between an environment's biodiversity and human resources.

Unit 6: Ecosystems
Module 8: Energy in Ecosystems
February 9 - February 25 (12 days)

Standards

3.ESS2.1 Develop a model to describe ways the geosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and/or atmosphere interact.

3.ESS2.2 Develop a model to describe the cycling of water through Earth's spheres driven by energy from the sun.

Unit 6: Ecosystems
Module 9: Weather Impacts
February 26 - March 13 (12 days)

Standards

3.ESS2.3 Use tables, graphs, and tools to describe precipitation, temperature, clouds, and wind (i.e., direction and speed) to predict local weather and climate.

3.ESS2.1 Develop a model to describe ways the geosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and/or atmosphere interact.

3.ESS2.4 Incorporate weather data to describe major climates (polar, temperate, tropical) in different regions of the world.

3.ESS3.1 Evaluate existing solutions that reduce the impact of natural hazards (e.g., fires, landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods, severe weather) on the environment.

3.ETS1.1 Design a solution to a real-world problem that includes specified criteria and constraints.

3.ETS1.2 Apply evidence or research to support a design solution.

Unit 7: Earth's Place In The Universe
Module 10: Our Solar System
February 26 - March 13 (12 days)

Standards

3.ESS1.1 Use data to categorize different bodies in our solar system including inner and outer planets, moons, asteroids, comets, and meteoroids according to their physical properties and motion.

TNReady Review and Testing

April 13 - May 1

After finishing Unit 4, teachers use this instructional window for TNReady Review and Testing.

After TNReady + Prepare for 5th Grade

May 4 - May 20

