

Wells Junior High School Course Summary Template

Name of Course: Grade 6 Science

Course Overview:		
Summary: In Grade 6 Science, the focus is on earth and space science. From the origins of the universe, to the natural forces that are shaping our Earth, students will explore Earth and space systems and how they interact. At the end of the year, students will tie together their learning as they examine how Earth's natural processes and human activity have impacted Earth's systems over time. They will strengthen their engineering and design skills with a culminating project in which they are tasked with creating an invention to minimize human impact on the environment.		
Unit of Study	Essential Question(s)	Content/Skill/Concept
Weather and Climate	What factors influence weather and climate? What major factors have contributed to the rise in global temperatures over the past century?	Atmosphere; hydrologic cycle; unequal heating of the Earth; wind; air masses and fronts; weather maps; predicting weather; severe weather; human impact on weather systems (global climate change)
Human Impact and Engineering Design	How can natural hazards be predicted? How do human activities affect Earth systems?	Effects of increasing population and consumption of natural resources on the environment; monitoring and minimizing human impact on the environment; forecasting natural hazards; technologies used to mitigate effects of natural disasters; defining problems, developing solutions, and improving designs
History of Earth	How are we able to organize the history of Earth and life on Earth? How does the movement of tectonic plates impact the surface of Earth?	Layers of the Earth; theory of continental drift; plate boundaries and plate tectonics; rock strata and law of superposition; fossils; geologic time scale; major events that have shaped Earth's surface; weathering/erosion/deposition; uneven distribution of natural resources
Space Systems	What is Earth's place in the universe? What makes up our solar system? How can the motion of Earth explain seasons and eclipses? What properties of the solar system and its objects help explain why Earth can sustain life?	Earth-sun-moon system (seasons, eclipses, and lunar phases); planets and their moons; other objects in the universe (stars, asteroids, comets, etc.), scale properties and distances of objects in space; role of gravity within galaxies and the solar system