

KnowAtom's K-8 Alignment Guide to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

This alignment guide shows how KnowAtom's integrated model of science curriculum is designed for the Next Generation Science Standards.

KnowAtom's hands-on science curriculum uses storylines that provide the purpose and opportunity for students to use scientific inquiry and interdisciplinary thinking to make sense of real-world phenomena. Scientific inquiry and three-dimensional learning are an integral part of every unit.

With KnowAtom, students apply scientific practices to investigate phenomena, ask questions, design solutions, and evaluate evidence to construct arguments, with the larger goal of reaching deeper scientific literacy. The curriculum fosters learning experiences that inspire and support the application of scientific knowledge to solving practical problems and real-world challenges.

Concepts are scaffolded within a grade band, providing students with multiple contexts and opportunities for mastery of the performance expectations. For this reason, you may see standards from one grade level brought into both earlier and later grade levels within 3-5 and 6-8. This is intentional for concept introduction and reinforcement and prevents systemic gaps in instruction for transient or absent students.



Grades K-5 Unit Sequence

	Core Topics	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Earth & Space Science	Matter, Space and Motion	Unit 1: Weather In Our World*	Unit 1: Patterns in the Sky	Unit 1: Matter All Around Us	Unit 1: Earth in Motion	Unit 1: Matter and Energy	Unit 1: Matter in Motion
	Earth's Interacting Systems		Unit 2: Changing Seasons	Unit 2: A Changing Planet* Unit 3: Land and Water	Unit 2: Weather and Water*	Unit 2: Shaping Earth's Surface Unit 3: Earth and Human Activity*	Unit 2: Earth's Materials Unit 3: Water on Earth*
Life Science	Energy and Ecosystem Dynamics	Unit 2: Living Things Change	Unit 3: Seed and Leaves Unit 4: Animals on Earth Unit 5: Mimicking Plants and Animals* Unit 6: Animal Behaviors*	Unit 4: Living Earth Unit 5: Growing Plants Unit 6: Plant and Animal Relationships*	Unit 3: Life on Earth Unit 4: Life Cycles and Traits	Unit 4: Plant and Animal Structures Unit 5: Organisms and their Environment	Unit 4: Matter and Energy Cycles Unit 5: Ecosystem Interactions
Physical Science	Forces, Motion, and Forms of Energy	Unit 3: Making Things Move*	Unit 7: Hearing and Sound Unit 8: Sight and Light* Unit 9: Communicating Over Distances*	Unit 7: Engineering Homes* Unit 8: Actions and Reactions Unit 9: Balancing Boats*	Unit 5: Energy in Motion Unit 6: Forces in Our Environment Unit 7: Magnetism and Electricity* Unit 8: Patterns in Sound* Unit 9: Patterns in Light*	Unit 6: Energy Transfers* Unit 7: Electrical Energy* Unit 8: Sound Waves Unit 9: Light and Communication*	Unit 6: Energy and Forces on Earth* Unit 7: Matter and Electricity Unit 8: Matter and Sound* Unit 9: Light Energy and Matter*

* Contains Engineering Lessons



Grades 6-8 Unit Sequence

		Core Topics	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Earth & Space Science	Physical Science	Energy and Matter	Unit 1: Gravity and Motion Unit 2: Atoms and Molecules	Unit 1: Discovering Matter*	Unit 1: Matter and Movement
		Earth's Place in the Universe and Earth System	Unit 3: Satellites* Unit 4: Climate and Human Activity*	Unit 2: Energy and Earth Materials Unit 3: Glaciers and Earth's Past	Unit 2: Earth and the Solar System* Unit 3: Earth's Changing Climate*
	Life Science	Biological Structure and Function	Unit 5: Landforms Unit 6: Biodiversity Unit 7: Cells to Systems	Unit 4: Cell Functions Unit 5: Cell Division	Unit 4: From Molecules to Organisms Unit 5: Inheriting Traits Unit 6: Human Genetics
Ecosystem Dynamics		Unit 8: Forests	Unit 6: Rocky Shores Unit 7: Environmental Science*	Unit 7: Changing Environments*	
Earth & Space Science	Physical Science	Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions	Unit 9: Civil Engineering*	Unit 8: Mechanical Engineering*	Unit 8: Transforming Energy*
		Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science		Unit 9: Communication Technology*	Unit 9: Waves and Information Transfer*

* Contains Engineering Lessons



KnowAtom Grades K-8 Unit Map

Next Generation Science Standards

Kindergarten

Kindergarten: Physical Science		
PS2. Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom
K-PS2-1.	Plan and conduct an investigation to compare the effects of different strengths or different directions of pushes and pulls on the motion of an object.	Unit 3
K-PS2-2.	Analyze data to determine if a design solution works as intended to change the speed or direction of an object with a push or a pull.	Unit 3
PS3. Energy		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom
K-PS3-1.	Make observations to determine the effect of sunlight on Earth's surface.	Unit 1
K-PS3-2.	Use tools and materials to design and build a structure that will reduce the warming effect of sunlight on an area.	Unit 1



Kindergarten

Kindergarten: Life Science		
K-LS1. From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom
K-LS1-1.	Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive.	Unit 2

Kindergarten: Earth and Space Sciences		
ESS2. Earth's Systems		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom
K-ESS2-1.	Use and share observations of local weather conditions to describe patterns over time.	Unit 1
K-ESS2-2.	Construct an argument supported by evidence for how plants and animals (including humans) can change the environment to meet their needs.	Unit 2
ESS3. Earth and Human Activity		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom
K-ESS3-1.	Use a model to represent the relationship between the needs of different plants or animals (including humans) and the places they live.	Unit 2
K-ESS3-2.	Ask questions to obtain information about the purpose of weather forecasting to prepare for, and respond to, severe weather.	Unit 1
K-ESS3-3.	Communicate solutions that will reduce the impact of humans on the land, water, air, and/or other living things in the local environment.	Unit 2



Grade 1

Grade 1: Physical Science		
PS4. Waves and Their Application in Technologies for Information Transfer		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom
1-PS4-1.	Plan and conduct investigations to provide evidence that vibrating materials can make sound and that sound can make materials vibrate.	Unit 7
1-PS4-2.	Make observations to construct an evidence-based account that objects in darkness can be seen only when illuminated.	Unit 8
1-PS4-3.	Plan and conduct an investigation to determine the effect of placing objects made with different materials in the path of a beam of light.	Unit 8
1-PS4-4.	Use tools and materials to design and build a device that uses light or sound to solve the problem of communicating over a distance.	Unit 9



Grade 1

Grade 1: Life Science		
LS1. From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom
1-LS1-1.	Use materials to design a solution to a human problem by mimicking how plants and/or animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs.	Units 3-6
1-LS1-2.	Read texts and use media to determine patterns in behavior of parents and offspring that help offspring survive.	Unit 6
LS3. Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom
1-LS3-1.	Make observations to construct an evidence-based account that young plants and animals are like, but not exactly like, their parents.	Unit 3 Unit 6

Grade 1: Earth and Space Sciences		
ESS1. Earth's Place in the Universe		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom
1-ESS1-1.	Use observations of the sun, moon, and stars to describe patterns that can be predicted.	Unit 1
1-ESS1-2.	Make observations at different times of year to relate the amount of daylight to the time of year.	Unit 2



Grade 2

Grade 2: Physical Science		
PS1. Matter and Its Interactions		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom
2-PS1-1.	Plan and conduct an investigation to describe and classify different kinds of materials by their observable properties.	Unit 1 Unit 7
2-PS1-2.	Analyze data obtained from testing different materials to determine which materials have the properties that are best suited for an intended purpose.	Unit 1 Unit 7 Unit 8 Unit 9
2-PS1-3.	Make observations to construct an evidence-based account of how an object made of a small set of pieces can be disassembled and made into a new object.	Unit 7
2-PS1-4.	Construct an argument with evidence that some changes caused by heating or cooling can be reversed and some cannot.	Unit 1 Unit 3

Grade 2: Life Science		
LS2. Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom
2-LS2-1.	Plan and conduct an investigation to determine if plants need sunlight and water to grow.	Unit 5
2-LS2-2.	Develop a simple model that mimics the function of an animal in dispersing seeds or pollinating plants.	Unit 5 Unit 6



Grade 2

Grade 2: Life Science		
LS4. Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom
2-LS4-1.	Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.	Unit 4

Grade 2: Earth and Space Sciences		
ESS1. Earth's Place in the Universe		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom
2-ESS1-1.	Use information from several sources to provide evidence that Earth events can occur quickly or slowly.	Unit 2
ESS2. Earth's Systems		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom
2-ESS2-1.	Compare multiple solutions designed to slow or prevent wind or water from changing the shape of the land.	Unit 2
2-ESS2-2.	Develop a model to represent the shapes and kinds of land and bodies of water in an area.	Unit 3
2-ESS2-3.	Obtain information to identify where water is found on Earth and that it can be solid or liquid.	Unit 3



Grades K-2 Engineering Design

K-2-ETS1 Engineering Design		Where Standard Is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2
K-2-ETS1-1.	Ask questions, make observations, and gather information about a situation people want to change to define a simple problem that can be solved through the development of a new or improved object or tool.	Units 1, 3	Units 5-6, 9	Units 2, 6-7, 9
K-2-ETS1-2.	Develop a simple sketch, drawing, or physical model to illustrate how the shape of an object helps it function as needed to solve a given problem.	Units 1, 3	Units 5-6, 9	Units 2, 6-7, 9
K-2-ETS1-3.	Analyze data from tests of two objects designed to solve the same problem to compare the strengths and weaknesses of how each performs.	Units 1, 3	Units 5-6, 9	Units 2, 6-7, 9



Grade 3

Grade 3: Physical Science				
PS2. Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
3-PS2-1.	Plan and conduct an investigation to provide evidence of the effects of balanced and unbalanced forces on the motion of an object.	Unit 1 Unit 5 Unit 6	Unit 1 Unit 6	Unit 6
3-PS2-2.	Make observations and/or measurements of an object's motion to provide evidence that a pattern can be used to predict future motion.	Unit 1 Unit 5		
3-PS2-3.	Ask questions to determine cause and effect relationships of electric or magnetic interactions between two objects not in contact with each other.	Unit 7	Unit 7	Unit 7
3-PS2-4.	Define a simple design problem that can be solved by applying scientific ideas about magnets.	Unit 7		

Grade 3: Life Science				
LS1. From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
3-LS1-1.	Develop models to describe that organisms have unique and diverse life cycles but all have in common birth, growth, reproduction, and death.	Unit 4	Unit 4	Unit 5
LS2. Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
3-LS2-1.	Construct an argument that some animals form groups that help members survive.	Units 3-4		



Grade 3

Grade 3: Life Science				
LS3. Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
3-LS3-1.	Analyze and interpret data to provide evidence that plants and animals have traits inherited from parents and that variation of these traits exists in a group of similar organisms.	Unit 4	Unit 5	Unit 5
3-LS3-2.	Use evidence to support the explanation that traits can be influenced by the environment.	Unit 4	Unit 5	Unit 5
LS4. Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
3-LS4-1.	Analyze and interpret data from fossils to provide evidence of the organisms and the environments in which they lived long ago.	Unit 3	Unit 2	
3-LS4-2.	Use evidence to construct an explanation for how the variations in characteristics among individuals of the same species may provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing.	Unit 4	Unit 5	Unit 5
3-LS4-3.	Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.	Unit 3	Unit 5	Unit 5
3-LS4-4.	Make a claim about the merit of a solution to a problem caused when the environment changes and the types of plants and animals that live there may change.	Unit 3	Unit 5	



Grade 3

Grade 3: Earth and Space Sciences				
ESS2. Earth's Systems		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
3-ESS2-1.	Represent data in tables and graphical displays to describe typical weather conditions expected during a particular season.	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 3
3-ESS2-2.	Obtain and combine information to describe climates in different regions of the world.	Units 2-3	Unit 3	Unit 3
ESS3. Human Activity		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
3-ESS3-1.	Make a claim about the merit of a design solution that reduces the impacts of a weather-related hazard.	Unit 2	Unit 3	



Grade 4

Grade 4: Physical Science				
PS3. Energy		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
4-PS3-1.	Use evidence to construct an explanation relating the speed of an object to the energy of that object.	Unit 5	Unit 1	
4-PS3-2.	Make observations to provide evidence that energy can be transferred from place to place by sound, light, heat, and electric currents.	Unit 5 Unit 8 Unit 9	Unit 6 Unit 7 Unit 8 Unit 9	Unit 6 Unit 7 Unit 8 Unit 9
4-PS3-3.	Ask questions and predict outcomes about the changes in energy that occur when objects collide.		Unit 1	
4-PS3-4.	Apply scientific ideas to design, test, and refine a device that converts energy from one form to another.		Unit 6 Unit 7 Unit 9	Unit 6 Unit 7
PS4. Waves and Their Applications in Technologies for Information Transfer		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
4-PS4-1.	Develop a model of waves to describe patterns in terms of amplitude and wavelength and that waves can cause objects to move.	Unit 8	Unit 8	Unit 8
4-PS4-2.	Develop a model to describe that light reflecting from objects and entering the eye allows objects to be seen.	Unit 9	Unit 9	Unit 9
4-PS4-3.	Generate and compare multiple solutions that use patterns to transfer information.		Unit 9	



Grade 4

Grade 4: Life Science				
LS1. From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
4-LS1-1.	Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.	Units 3-4	Units 4-5	Units 4-5
4-LS1-2.	Use a model to describe that animals receive different types of information through their senses, process the information in their brain, and respond to the information in different ways.		Unit 5	

Grade 4: Earth and Space Sciences				
ESS1. Earth's Place in the Universe		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
4-ESS1-1.	Identify evidence from patterns in rock formations and fossils in rock formations and fossils in rock layers for changes in a landscape over time to support an explanation for changes in a landscape over time.		Unit 2	Unit 2
ESS2. Earth's Systems		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
4-ESS2-1.	Make observations and/or measurements to provide evidence of the effects of weathering or the rate of erosion by water, ice, wind, or vegetation.	Unit 2	Unit 2	Unit 2
4-ESS2-2.	Analyze and interpret data from maps to describe patterns of Earth's features.		Unit 2	Unit 2



Grade 4

Grade 4: Earth and Space Sciences				
ESS3. Earth and Human Activity		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
4-ESS3-1.	Obtain and combine information to describe that energy and fuels are derived from natural resources and their uses affect the environment.		Unit 2 Unit 3	
4-ESS3-2.	Generate and compare multiple solutions to reduce the impacts of natural Earth processes on humans.	Unit 2	Unit 3	



Grade 5

Grade 5: Physical Science				
PS1. Matter and Its Interactions		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
5-PS1-1.	Develop a model to describe that matter is made of particles too small to be seen.	Unit 1 Unit 7 Unit 8	Unit 1 Unit 7 Unit 8	Unit 1 Unit 7 Unit 8
5-PS1-2.	Measure and graph quantities to provide evidence that regardless of the type of change that occurs when heating, cooling, or mixing substances, the total weight of matter is conserved.			Unit 1
5-PS1-3.	Make observations and measurements to identify materials based on their properties.	Unit 7 Unit 8 Unit 9	Unit 2 Unit 7 Unit 8 Unit 9	Unit 2 Unit 7 Unit 8 Unit 9
5-PS1-4.	Conduct an investigation to determine whether the mixing of two or more substances results in new substances.		Unit 2	Unit 1 Unit 2
PS2. Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
5-PS2-1.	Support an argument that the gravitational force exerted by Earth on objects is directed down.	Unit 1 Unit 6	Unit 1 Unit 6	Unit 1 Unit 6



Grade 5

Grade 5: Physical Science				
PS3. Energy		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
5-PS3-1.	Use models to describe that energy in animals' food (used for body repair, growth, motion, and to maintain body warmth) was once energy from the sun.	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 4

Grade 5: Life Science				
LS1. From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
5-LS1-1.	Support an argument that plants get the materials they need for growth chiefly from air and water.	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 4 Unit 5
LS2. Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
5-LS2-1.	Develop a model to describe the movement of matter among plants, animals, decomposers, and the environment.	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 4 Unit 5



Grade 5

Grade 5: Earth and Space Sciences				
ESS1. Earth's Place in the Universe		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
5-ESS1-1.	Support an argument that differences in the apparent brightness of the sun compared to other stars is due to their relative distances from Earth.	Unit 1	Unit 1	Unit 1
5-ESS1-2.	Represent data in graphical displays to reveal patterns of daily changes in length and direction of shadows, day and night, and the seasonal appearance of some stars in the night sky.		Unit 1	Unit 1
ESS2. Earth's Systems		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
5-ESS2-1.	Develop a model using an example to describe ways the geosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and/or atmosphere interact.	Unit 2 Unit 3	Unit 3	Unit 2 Unit 3
5-ESS2-2.	Describe and graph the amounts and percentages of water and fresh water in various reservoirs to provide evidence about the distribution of water on Earth.	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 3
ESS3. Earth and Human Activity		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
5-ESS3-1.	Obtain and combine information about ways individual communities use science ideas to protect the Earth's resources and environment.		Unit 3	Unit 3 Unit 9



Grades 3-5 Engineering Design

3-5-ETS1 Engineering Design		Where Standard Is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
3-5-ETS1-1.	Define a simple design problem reflecting a need or a want that includes specified criteria for success and constraints on materials, time, or cost.	Units 2, 6, 8-9	Units 3, 6-7, 9	Units 3, 6, 8-9
3-5-ETS1-2.	Generate and compare multiple possible solutions to a problem based on how well each is likely to meet the criteria and constraints of the problem.	Units 2, 6, 8-9	Units 3, 6-7, 9	Units 3, 6, 8-9
3-5-ETS1-3.	Plan and carry out fair tests in which variables are controlled and failure points are considered to identify aspects of a model or prototype that can be improved.	Units 2, 6, 8-9	Units 3, 6-7, 9	Units 3, 6, 8-9



Middle School: Grades 6-8

Physical Science				
MS-PS1 Matter and Its Interactions		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
MS-PS1-1.	Develop models to describe the atomic composition of simple molecules and extended structures.	Unit 2	Units 1-2, 5	Unit 1
MS-PS1-2.	Analyze and interpret data on the properties of substances before and after the substances interact to determine if a chemical reaction has occurred.	Unit 2	Units 1-2	Unit 1
MS-PS1-3.	Gather and make sense of information to describe that synthetic materials come from natural resources and impact society.	Unit 9	Units 1-2	Unit 1
MS-PS1-4.	Develop a model that predicts and describes changes in particle motion, temperature, and state of a pure substance when thermal energy is added or removed.	Unit 2	Units 1-2	Unit 1
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.	Unit 2	Units 1-2	Unit 1
MS-PS1-6.	Undertake a design project to construct, test, and modify a device that either releases or absorbs thermal energy by chemical processes.		Unit 1	



Middle School: Grades 6-8

Physical Science				
MS-PS2 Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
MS-PS2-1.	Apply Newton’s Third Law to design a solution to a problem involving the motion of two colliding objects.			Units 1-2
MS-PS2-2.	Plan an investigation to provide evidence that the change in an object’s motion depends on the sum of the forces on the object and the mass of the object.		Unit 8	Units 1-2, 8-9
MS-PS2-3.	Ask questions about data to determine the factors that affect the strength of electric and magnetic forces.		Unit 9	Unit 8
MS-PS2-4.	Construct and present arguments using evidence to support the claim that gravitational interactions are attractive and depend on the masses of interacting objects.	Units 1, 3	Units 3, 6	Unit 2
MS-PS2-5.	Conduct an investigation and evaluate the experimental design to provide evidence that fields exist between objects exerting forces on each other even though the objects are not in contact.		Unit 9	Unit 8



Middle School: Grades 6-8

Physical Science				
MS-PS3 Energy		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
MS-PS3-1.	Construct and interpret graphical displays of data to describe the relationships of kinetic energy to the mass of an object and to the speed of an object.	Unit 1	Unit 8	Unit 1
MS-PS3-2.	Develop a model to describe that when the arrangement of objects interacting at a distance changes, different amounts of potential energy are stored in the system.	Unit 1	Unit 9	Unit 8
MS-PS3-3.	Apply scientific principles to design, construct, and test a device that either minimizes or maximizes thermal energy transfer.	Units 2-3	Unit 2	Unit 3
MS-PS3-4.	Plan an investigation to determine the relationships among the energy transferred, the type of matter, the mass, and the change in the average kinetic energy of the particles as measured by the temperature of the sample.	Unit 2	Units 1-2, 6	
MS-PS3-5.	Construct, use, and present arguments to support the claim that when the kinetic energy of an object changes, energy is transferred to or from the object.	Units 1-3	Units 1-2, 6, 8	Units 1, 8



Middle School: Grades 6-8

Physical Science				
MS-PS4 Waves and Their Applications in Technologies for Information Transfer		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
MS-PS4-1.	Use mathematical representations to describe a simple model for waves that includes how the amplitude of a wave is related to the energy in a wave.	Unit 3		Unit 9
MS-PS4-2.	Develop and use a model to describe that waves are reflected, absorbed, or transmitted through various materials.	Unit 3		Unit 9
MS-PS4-3.	Integrate qualitative scientific and technical information to support the claim that digitized signals are a more reliable way to encode and transmit information than analog signals.	Unit 3		Unit 9

Life Science				
MS-LS1. From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
MS-LS1-1.	Conduct an investigation to provide evidence that living things are made of cells; either one cell or many different numbers and types of cells.	Units 6-7	Units 4-5	Unit 4
MS-LS1-2.	Develop and use a model to describe the function of a cell as a whole and ways parts of cells contribute to the function.	Units 6, 8	Unit 4	Unit 4
MS-LS1-3.	Use argument supported by evidence for how the body is a system of interacting subsystems composed of groups of cells.	Unit 7		Unit 4



Middle School: Grades 6-8

Life Science				
MS-LS1. From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
MS-LS1-4.	Use argument based on empirical evidence and scientific reasoning to support an explanation for how characteristic animal behaviors and specialized plant structures affect the probability of successful reproduction of animals and plants respectively.	Units 6, 8	Units 4-6	Unit 6
MS-LS1-5.	Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence for how environmental and genetic factors influence the growth of organisms.	Units 6, 8		Units 5-6
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.	Unit 8	Units 4,6	Units 4,7
MS-LS1-7.	Develop a model to describe how food is rearranged through chemical reactions forming new molecules that support growth and/or release energy as this matter moves through an organism.		Unit 4	Unit 4
MS-LS1-8.	Gather and synthesize information that sensory receptors respond to stimuli by sending messages to the brain for immediate behavior or storage as memories.	Unit 7		Unit 4



Middle School: Grades 6-8

Life Science					
MS-LS2-1 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics			Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
			Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
MS-LS2-1.	Analyze and interpret data to provide evidence for the effects of resource availability on organisms and populations of organisms in an ecosystem.		Unit 8	Unit 6	Unit 7
MS-LS2-2.	Construct an explanation that predicts patterns of interactions among organisms across multiple ecosystems.		Unit 8	Unit 6	Unit 7
MS-LS2-3.	Develop a model to describe the cycling of matter and flow of energy among living and nonliving parts of an ecosystem.		Unit 8	Unit 6	Unit 7
MS-LS2-4.	Construct an argument supported by empirical evidence that changes to physical or biological components of an ecosystem affect populations.		Unit 8	Unit 6	Unit 7
MS-LS2-5.	Evaluate competing design solutions for maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services.			Unit 7	Unit 7
MS-LS3. Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits			Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
			Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
MS-LS3-1.	Develop and use a model to describe 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.			Unit 5	Units 5-6
MS-LS3-2.	Develop and use a model to describe why asexual reproduction results in offspring with identical genetic information and sexual reproduction results in offspring with genetic variation.		Unit 6	Unit 5	Units 5-6



Middle School: Grades 6-8

Life Science				
MS-LS4. Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
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.	Unit 6	Unit 3	Units 4, 6
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.	Unit 6		Units 4, 6
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.			Unit 6
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.	Unit 6		Units 5-6
MS-LS4-5.	Gather and synthesize information about the technologies that have changed the way humans influence the inheritance of desired traits in organisms.			Unit 6
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.			Unit 6



Middle School: Grades 6-8

Earth and Space Sciences				
MS-ESS1. Earth's Place in the Universe		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
MS-ESS1-1.	Develop and use a model of the Earth-sun-moon system to describe the cyclic patterns of lunar phases, eclipses of the sun and moon, and seasons.	Unit 3		Units 2-3
MS-ESS1-2.	Develop and use a model to describe the role of gravity in the motions within galaxies and the solar system.	Unit 3		Unit 2
MS-ESS1-3.	Analyze and interpret data to determine scale properties of objects in the solar system.			Unit 2
MS-ESS1-4.	Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence from rock strata for how the geologic time scale is used to organize Earth's 4.6-billion-year-old history.	Unit 5	Unit 3	Unit 6
MS Earth's Systems		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
MS-ESS2-1.	Develop a model to describe the cycling of Earth's materials and the flow of energy that drives this process.	Unit 5	Units 2-3, 7	
MS-ESS2-2.	Construct an explanation based on evidence for how geoscience processes have changed Earth's surface at varying time and spatial scales.	Unit 5	Units 2-3, 7	
MS-ESS2-3.	Analyze and interpret data on the distribution of fossils and rocks, continental shapes, and seafloor structures to provide evidence of the past plate motions.	Unit 5	Unit 3	



Middle School: Grades 6-8

Earth and Space Sciences				
MS Earth's Systems		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
MS-ESS2-4.	Develop a model to describe the cycling of water through Earth's systems driven by energy from the sun and the force of gravity.	Units 4-5	Units 3, 7	Unit 3
MS-ESS2-5.	Collect data to provide evidence for how the motions and complex interactions of air masses results in changes in weather conditions.			Unit 3
MS-ESS2-6.	Develop and use a model to describe how unequal heating and rotation of the Earth cause patterns of atmospheric and oceanic circulation that determine regional climates.	Unit 4		Unit 3
ESS3. Earth and Human Activity		Where Standard is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
MS-ESS3-1.	Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence for how the uneven distributions of Earth's mineral, energy, and groundwater resources are the result of past and current geoscience processes.		Units 2, 7	
MS-ESS3-2.	Analyze and interpret data on natural hazards to forecast future catastrophic events and inform the development of technologies to mitigate their effects.	Unit 9	Unit 7	
MS-ESS3-3.	Apply scientific principles to design a method for monitoring and minimizing a human impact on the environment.	Unit 4	Unit 7	
MS-ESS3-4.	Construct an argument supported by evidence for how increases in human population and per-capita consumption of natural resources impact Earth's systems.		Unit 7	Unit 3
MS-ESS3-5.	Ask questions to clarify evidence of the factors that have caused the rise in global temperatures over the past century.	Unit 4	Unit 3	Unit 3



Grades 6-8 Engineering Design

MS-ETS1 Engineering Design		Where Standard Is Integrated in KnowAtom		
		Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
MS-ETS1-1.	Define the criteria and constraints of a design problem with sufficient precision to ensure a successful solution, taking into account relevant scientific principles and potential impacts on people and the natural environment that may limit possible solutions.	Units 3-4, 9	Units 1, 7-9	Units 2-3, 7-9
MS-ETS1-2.	Evaluate competing design solutions using a systematic process to determine how well they meet the criteria and constraints of the problem.	Units 3-4, 9	Units 1, 7-9	Units 2-3, 7-9
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.	Units 3-4, 9	Units 1, 7-9	Units 2-3, 7-9
MS-ETS1-4.	Develop a model to generate data for iterative testing and modification of a proposed object, tool, or process such that an optimal design can be achieved.	Units 3-4, 9	Units 1, 7-9	Units 2-3, 7-9

