Third Grade

The performance expectations in third grade help students formulate answers to questions such as: "What is typical weather in different parts of the world and during different times of the year? How can the impact of weather-related hazards be reduced? How do organisms vary in their traits? How are plants, animals, and environments of the past similar or different from current plants, animals, and environments? What happens to organisms when their environment changes? How do equal and unequal forces on an object affect the object? How can magnets be used?" Third grade performance expectations include PS2, LS1, LS2, LS3, LS4, ESS2, and ESS3 Disciplinary Core Ideas from the *NRC Framework*. Students are able to organize and use data to describe typical weather conditions expected during a particular season. By applying their understanding of weather-related hazards, students are able to make a claim about the merit of a design solution that reduces the impacts of such hazards. Students are expected to develop an understanding of the similarities and differences of organisms' life cycles. An understanding that organisms have different inherited traits, and that the environment can also affect the traits that an organism develops, is acquired by students at this level. In addition, students are able to construct an explanation using evidence for how the variations in characteristics among individuals of the same species may provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing. Students are expected to develop an understanding of types of organisms that lived long ago and also about the nature of their environments. Third graders are expected to develop an understanding of the idea that when the environment changes some organisms survive and reproduce, some move to new locations, some move into the transformed environment, and some die. Students are able to determine the effects of balanced and unbalanced forces on the motion of an object and the cause and effect relationships of electric or magnetic interactions between two objects not in contact with each other. They are then able to apply their understanding of magnetic interactions to define a simple design problem that can be solved with magnets. The crosscutting concepts of patterns; cause and effect; scale, proportion, and quantity; systems and system models; interdependence of science, engineering, and technology; and influence of engineering, technology, and science on society and the natural world are called out as organizing concepts for these disciplinary core ideas. In the third grade performance expectations, students are expected to demonstrate grade-appropriate proficiency in asking questions and defining problems; developing and using models, planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, constructing explanations and designing solutions, engaging in argument from evidence, and obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information. Students are expected to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas.

3.Forces and Interactions

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

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.** [Clarification Statement: Examples could include an unbalanced force on one side of a ball can make it start moving; and, balanced forces pushing on a box from both sides will not produce any motion at all.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to one variable at a time: number, size, or direction of forces. Assessment does not include quantitative force size, only qualitative and relative. Assessment is limited to gravity being addressed as a force that pulls objects down.]

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.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of motion with a predictable pattern could include a child swinging in a swing, a ball rolling back and forth in a bowl, and two children on a see-saw.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include technical terms such as period and frequency.]

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.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of an electric force could include the force on hair from an electrically charged balloon and the electrical forces between a charged rod and pieces of paper; examples of a magnetic force could include the force between two permanent magnets, the force between an electromagnet and steel paperclips, and the force exerted by one magnet versus the force exerted by two magnets. Examples of cause and effect relationships could include how the distance between objects affects strength of the force and how the orientation of magnets affects the direction of the magnetic force.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to forces produced by objects that can be manipulated by students, and electrical interactions are limited to static electricity.]

3-PS2-4. **Define a simple design problem that can be solved by applying scientific ideas about magnets.*** [Clarification Statement: Examples of problems could include constructing a latch to keep a door shut and creating a device to keep two moving objects from touching each other.]

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

Science and Engineering Practices

Asking Questions and Defining Problems

Asking questions and defining problems in grades 3–5 builds on grades K–2 experiences and progresses to specifying qualitative relationships.

- Ask questions that can be investigated based on patterns such as cause and effect relationships. (3-PS2-3)
- Define a simple problem that can be solved through the development of a new or improved object or tool. (3-PS2-4)

Planning and Carrying Out Investigations

Planning and carrying out investigations to answer questions or test solutions to problems in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to include investigations that control variables and provide evidence to support explanations or design solutions.

- Plan and conduct an investigation collaboratively to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence, using fair tests in which variables are controlled and the number of trials considered. (3-PS2-1)
- Make observations and/or measurements to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence for an explanation of a phenomenon or test a design solution. (3-PS2-2)

Connections to Nature of Science

Science Knowledge is Based on Empirical Evidence

- Science findings are based on recognizing patterns. (3-PS2-2)

Scientific Investigations Use a Variety of Methods

- Science investigations use a variety of methods, tools, and techniques. (3-PS2-1)

Disciplinary Core Ideas

PS2.A: Forces and Motion

- Each force acts on one particular object and has both strength and a direction. An object at rest typically has multiple forces acting on it, but they add to give zero net force on the object. Forces that do not sum to zero can cause changes in the object's speed or direction of motion. (Boundary: Qualitative and conceptual, but not quantitative addition of forces are used at this level.) (3-PS2-1)
- The patterns of an object's motion in various situations can be observed and measured; when that past motion exhibits a regular pattern, future motion can be predicted from it. (Boundary: Technical terms, such as magnitude, velocity, momentum, and vector quantity, are not introduced at this level, but the concept that some quantities need both size and direction to be described is developed.) (3-PS2-2)

PS2.B: Types of Interactions

- Objects in contact exert forces on each other. (3-PS2-1)
- Electric and magnetic forces between a pair of objects do not require that the objects be in contact. The sizes of the forces in each situation depend on the properties of the objects and their distances apart and, for forces between two magnets, on their orientation relative to each other. (3-PS2-3),(3-PS2-4)

Crosscutting Concepts

Patterns

- Patterns of change can be used to make predictions. (3-PS2-2)

Cause and Effect

- Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified. (3-PS2-1)
- Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified, tested, and used to explain change. (3-PS2-3)

Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science

Interdependence of Science, Engineering, and Technology

- Scientific discoveries about the natural world can often lead to new and improved technologies, which are developed through the engineering design process. (3-PS2-4)

Connections to other DCIs in third grade: N/A

Articulation of DCIs across grade-levels: **K.PS2.A** (3-PS2-1); **K.PS2.B** (3-PS2-1); **K.PS3.C** (3-PS2-1); **K.ETS1.A** (3-PS2-4); **1.ESS1.A** (3-PS2-2); **4.PS4.A** (3-PS2-2); **4.ETS1.A** (3-PS2-4); **5.PS2.B** (3-PS2-1); **MS.PS2.A** (3-PS2-1),(3-PS2-2); **MS.PS2.B** (3-PS2-3),(3-PS2-4); **MS.ESS1.B** (3-PS2-1),(3-PS2-2); **MS.ESS2.C** (3-PS2-1)

Common Core State Standards Connections:

ELA/Literacy –

RI.3.1 Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers. *(3-PS2-1),*(3-PS2-3)

RI.3.3 Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect. (3-PS2-3)

RI.3.8 Describe the logical connection between particular sentences and paragraphs in a text (e.g., comparison, cause/effect, first/second/third in a sequence). *(3-PS2-3)*

W.3.7 Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic. (3-PS2-1),(3-PS2-2)

W.3.8 Recall information from experiences or gather information from print and digital sources; take brief notes on sources and sort evidence into provided categories. (3-PS2-1),*(3-PS2-2)*

SL.3.3 Ask and answer questions about information from a speaker, offering appropriate elaboration and detail. *(3-PS2-3)*

Mathematics –

MP.2 Reason abstractly and quantitatively. *(3-PS2-1)*

MP.5 Use appropriate tools strategically. *(3-PS2-1)*

3.MD.A.2 Measure and estimate liquid volumes and masses of objects using standard units of grams (g), kilograms (kg), and liters (l). Add, subtract, multiply, or divide to solve one-step word problems involving masses or volumes that are given in the same units, e.g., by using drawings (such as a beaker with a measurement scale) to represent the problem. *(3-PS2-1)*

*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.

3-PS2-1 Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

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.** [Clarification Statement: Examples could include an unbalanced force on one side of a ball can make it start moving; and, balanced forces pushing on a box from both sides will not produce any motion at all.] [*Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to one variable at a time: number, size, or direction of forces. Assessment does not include quantitative force size, only qualitative and relative. Assessment is limited to gravity being addressed as a force that pulls objects down.*]

The performance expectation above was developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

Science and Engineering Practices

Planning and Carrying Out Investigations
Planning and carrying out investigations to answer questions or test solutions to problems in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to include investigations that control variables and provide evidence to support explanations or design solutions.

- Plan and conduct an investigation collaboratively to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence, using fair tests in which variables are controlled and the number of trials considered.

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Connections to Nature of Science

Scientific Investigations Use a Variety of Methods

- Science investigations use a variety of methods, tools, and techniques.

Disciplinary Core Ideas

PS2.A: Forces and Motion

- Each force acts on one particular object and has both strength and a direction. An object at rest typically has multiple forces acting on it, but they add to give zero net force on the object. Forces that do not sum to zero can cause changes in the object's speed or direction of motion. (Boundary: Qualitative and conceptual, but not quantitative addition of forces are used at this level.)

PS2.B: Types of Interactions

- Objects in contact exert forces on each other.

Crosscutting Concepts

Cause and Effect

- Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified.

Observable features of the student performance by the end of the grade:		
1	Identifying the phenomenon under investigation	
	a	Students identify and describe* the phenomenon under investigation, which includes the effects of different forces on an object's motion (e.g., starting, stopping, or changing direction).
	b	Students describe* the purpose of the investigation, which includes producing data to serve as the basis for evidence for how balanced and unbalanced forces determine an object's motion.
2	Identifying the evidence to address the purpose of the investigation	
	a	Students collaboratively develop an investigation plan. In the investigation plan, students describe* the data to be collected, including:
		i. The change in motion of an object at rest after:
		1. Different strengths and directions of balanced forces (forces that sum to zero) are applied to the object.
		2. Different strengths and directions of unbalanced forces (forces that do not sum to zero) are applied to the object (e.g., strong force on the right, weak force or the left).
		ii. What causes the forces on the object.
	b	Students individually describe* how the evidence to be collected will be relevant to determining the effects of balanced and unbalanced forces on an object's motion.
3	Planning the investigation	
	a	In the collaboratively developed investigation plan, students describe* how the motion of the object will be observed and recorded, including defining the following features:
		i. The object whose motion will be investigated.

		ii. The objects in contact that exert forces on each other.
		iii. Changing one variable at a time (e.g., control strength and vary the direction, or control direction and vary the strength).
		iv. The number of trials that will be conducted in the investigation to produce sufficient data.
	b	Students individually describe* how their investigation plan will allow them to address the purpose of the investigation.
4	Collecting the data	
	a	Students collaboratively collect and record data according to the investigation plan they developed, including data from observations and/or measurements of:
		i. An object at rest and the identification of the forces acting on the object.
		ii. An object in motion and the identification of the forces acting on the object.

3-PS2-2 Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

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.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of motion with a predictable pattern could include a child swinging in a swing, a ball rolling back and forth in a bowl, and two children on a see-saw.] [*Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include technical terms such as period and frequency.*]

The performance expectation above was developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

Science and Engineering Practices

Planning and Carrying Out Investigations
Planning and carrying out investigations to answer questions or test solutions to problems in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to include investigations that control variables and provide evidence to support explanations or design solutions.

- Make observations and/or measurements to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence for an explanation of a phenomenon or test a design solution.

Connections to Nature of Science

Science Knowledge is Based on Empirical Evidence

- Science findings are based on recognizing patterns.

Disciplinary Core Ideas

PS2.A: Forces and Motion

- The patterns of an object's motion in various situations can be observed and measured; when that past motion exhibits a regular pattern, future motion can be predicted from it. (Boundary: Technical terms, such as magnitude, velocity, momentum, and vector quantity, are not introduced at this level, but the concept that some quantities need both size and direction to be described is developed.)

Crosscutting Concepts

Patterns

- Patterns of change can be used to make predictions.

Observable features of the student performance by the end of the grade:		
1	Identifying the phenomenon under investigation	
	a	From the given investigation plan, students identify and describe* the phenomenon under investigation, which includes observable patterns in the motion of an object.
	b	Students identify and describe* the purpose of the investigation, which includes providing evidence for an explanation of the phenomenon that includes the idea that patterns of motion can be used to predict future motion of an object.
2	Identifying the evidence to address the purpose of the investigation	
	a	Based on a given investigation plan, students identify and describe* the data to be collected through observations and/or measurements, including data on the motion of the object as it repeats a pattern over time (e.g., a pendulum swinging, a ball moving on a curved track, a magnet repelling another magnet).
	b	Students describe* how the data will serve as evidence of a pattern in the motion of an object and how that pattern can be used to predict future motion.
3	Planning the investigation	
	a	From the given investigation plan, students identify and describe* how the data will be collected, including how:
		i. The motion of the object will be observed and measured.
		ii. Evidence of a pattern in the motion of the object will be identified from the data on the motion of the object.
		iii. The pattern in the motion of the object can be used to predict future motion.
4	Collecting the data	
	a	Students make observations and/or measurements of the motion of the object, according to the given investigation plan, to identify a pattern that can be used to predict future motion.

3-PS2-3 Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

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.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of an electric force could include the force on hair from an electrically charged balloon and the electrical forces between a charged rod and pieces of paper; examples of a magnetic force could include the force between two permanent magnets, the force between an electromagnet and steel paperclips, and the force exerted by one magnet versus the force exerted by two magnets. Examples of cause and effect relationships could include how the distance between objects affects strength of the force and how the orientation of magnets affects the direction of the magnetic force.] [*Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to forces produced by objects that can be manipulated by students, and electrical interactions are limited to static electricity.*]

The performance expectation above was developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

Science and Engineering Practices

Asking Questions and Defining Problems

Asking questions and defining problems in grades 3–5 builds on grades K–2 experiences and progresses to specifying qualitative relationships.

- Ask questions that can be investigated based on patterns such as cause and effect relationships.

Disciplinary Core Ideas

PS2.B: Types of Interactions

- Electric, and magnetic forces between a pair of objects do not require that the objects be in contact. The sizes of the forces in each situation depend on the properties of the objects and their distances apart and, for forces between two magnets, on their orientation relative to each other.

Crosscutting Concepts

Cause and Effect

- Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified, tested, and used to explain change.

Observable features of the student performance by the end of the grade:		
1	Addressing phenomena of the natural world	
	a	Students ask questions that arise from observations of two objects not in contact with each other interacting through electric or magnetic forces, the answers to which would clarify the cause-and-effect relationships between:
		i. The sizes of the forces on the two interacting objects due to the distance between the two objects.
		ii. The relative orientation of two magnets and whether the force between the magnets is attractive or repulsive.
		iii. The presence of a magnet and the force the magnet exerts on other objects.
		iv. Electrically charged objects and an electric force.
2	Identifying the scientific nature of the question	
	a	Students' questions can be investigated within the scope of the classroom.

3-PS2-4 Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

3-PS2-4. **Define a simple design problem that can be solved by applying scientific ideas about magnets.*** [Clarification Statement: Examples of problems could include constructing a latch to keep a door shut and creating a device to keep two moving objects from touching each other.]

The performance expectation above was developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

Science and Engineering Practices

Asking Questions and Defining Problems
Asking questions and defining problems in grades 3–5 builds on grades K–2 experiences and progresses to specifying qualitative relationships.

- Define a simple problem that can be solved through the development of a new or improved object or tool.

Disciplinary Core Ideas

PS2.B: Types of Interactions

- Electric, and magnetic forces between a pair of objects do not require that the objects be in contact. The sizes of the forces in each situation depend on the properties of the objects and their distances apart and, for forces between two magnets, on their orientation relative to each other.

Crosscutting Concepts

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Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science

Interdependence of Science, Engineering, and Technology

- Scientific discoveries about the natural world can often lead to new and improved technologies, which are developed through the engineering design process.

Observable features of the student performance by the end of the grade:		
1	Identifying the problem to be solved	
	a	Students identify and describe* a simple design problem that can be solved by applying a scientific understanding of the forces between interacting magnets.
	b	Students identify and describe* the scientific ideas necessary for solving the problem, including:
		i. Force between objects do not require that those objects be in contact with each other
		ii. The size of the force depends on the properties of objects, distance between the objects, and orientation of magnetic objects relative to one another.
2	Defining the criteria and constraints	
	a	Students identify and describe* the criteria (desirable features) for a successful solution to the problem.
	b	Students identify and describe* the constraints (limits) such as:
		i. Time.
		ii. Cost.
		iii. Materials.

3.Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

3.Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

3-LS2-1. Construct an argument that some animals form groups that help members survive.

3-LS4-1. Analyze and interpret data from fossils to provide evidence of the organisms and the environments in which they lived long ago. [Clarification Statement: Examples of data could include type, size, and distributions of fossil organisms. Examples of fossils and environments could include marine fossils found on dry land, tropical plant fossils found in Arctic areas, and fossils of extinct organisms.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include identification of specific fossils or present plants and animals. Assessment is limited to major fossil types and relative ages.]

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. [Clarification Statement: Examples of evidence could include needs and characteristics of the organisms and habitats involved. The organisms and their habitat make up a system in which the parts depend on each other.]

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.* [Clarification Statement: Examples of environmental changes could include changes in land characteristics, water distribution, temperature, food, and other organisms.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to a single environmental change. Assessment does not include the greenhouse effect or climate change.]

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

Science and Engineering Practices

Analyzing and Interpreting Data

Analyzing data in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to introducing quantitative approaches to collecting data and conducting multiple trials of qualitative observations. When possible and feasible, digital tools should be used.

- Analyze and interpret data to make sense of phenomena using logical reasoning. (3-LS4-1)

Engaging in Argument from Evidence

Engaging in argument from evidence in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to critiquing the scientific explanations or solutions proposed by peers by citing relevant evidence about the natural and designed worlds.

- Construct an argument with evidence, data, and/or a model. (3-LS2-1)
- Construct an argument with evidence. (3-LS4-3)
- Make a claim about the merit of a solution to a problem by citing relevant evidence about how it meets the criteria and constraints of the problem. (3-LS4-4)

Disciplinary Core Ideas

LS2.C: Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience

- When the environment changes in ways that affect a place's physical characteristics, temperature, or availability of resources, some organisms survive and reproduce, others move to new locations, yet others move into the transformed environment, and some die. *(secondary to 3-LS4-4)*

LS2.D: Social Interactions and Group Behavior

- Being part of a group helps animals obtain food, defend themselves, and cope with changes. Groups may serve different functions and vary dramatically in size. *(Note: Moved from K–2)* (3-LS2-1)

LS4.A: Evidence of Common Ancestry and Diversity

- Some kinds of plants and animals that once lived on Earth are no longer found anywhere. *(Note: Moved from K–2)* (3-LS4-1)
- Fossils provide evidence about the types of organisms that lived long ago and also about the nature of their environments. (3-LS4-1)

LS4.C: Adaptation

- For any particular environment, some kinds of organisms survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all. (3-LS4-3)

LS4.D: Biodiversity and Humans

- Populations live in a variety of habitats, and change in those habitats affects the organisms living there. (3-LS4-4)

Crosscutting Concepts

Cause and Effect

- Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified and used to explain change. (3-LS2-1),(3-LS4-3)

Scale, Proportion, and Quantity

- Observable phenomena exist from very short to very long time periods. (3-LS4-1)

Systems and System Models

- A system can be described in terms of its components and their interactions. (3-LS4-4)

Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science

Interdependence of Science, Engineering, and Technology

- Knowledge of relevant scientific concepts and research findings is important in engineering. (3-LS4-4)

Connections to Nature of Science

Scientific Knowledge Assumes an Order and Consistency in Natural Systems

- Science assumes consistent patterns in natural systems. (3-LS4-1)

Connections to other DCIs in third grade: **3.ESS2.D** (3-LS4-3); **3.ESS3.B** (3-LS4-4)

Articulation of DCIs across grade-levels: **K.ESS3.A** (3-LS4-3)(3-LS4-4); **K.ETS1.A** (3-LS4-4); **1.LS1.B** (3-LS2-1); **2.LS2.A** (3-LS4-3),(3-LS4-4); **2.LS4.D** (3-LS4-3),(3-LS4-4); **4.ESS1.C** (3-LS4-1); **4.ESS3.B** (3-LS4-4); **4.ETS1.A** (3-LS4-4); **MS.LS2.A** (3-LS2-1),(3-LS4-1)(3-LS4-3),(3-LS4-4); **MS.LS2.C** (3-LS4-4); **MS.LS4.A** (3-LS4-1); **MS.LS4.B** (3-LS4-3); **MS.LS4.C** (3-LS4-3),(3-LS4-4); **MS.ESS1.C** (3-LS4-1),(3-LS4-3),(3-LS4-4); **MS.ESS2.B** (3-LS4-1); **MS.ESS3.C** (3-LS4-4)

Common Core State Standards Connections:

ELA/Literacy –

RI.3.1 Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers. *(3-LS2-1),(3-LS4-1),(3-LS4-3),(3-LS4-4)*

RI.3.2 Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea. *(3-LS4-1),(3-LS4-3),(3LS4-4)*

RI.3.3 Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect. *(3-LS2-1),(3-LS4-1),(3-LS4-3),(3-LS4-4)*

W.3.1 Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons. (3-LS2-1),*(3-LS4-1),*(3-LS4-3),*(3-LS4-4)*

W.3.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly. *(3-LS4-1),(3-LS4-3),(3-LS4-4)*

W.3.8 Recall information from experiences or gather information from print and digital sources; take brief notes on sources and sort evidence into provided categories. (3-LS4-1)

SL.3.4 Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking clearly at an understandable pace. *(3-LS4-3),(3-LS4-4)*

Mathematics –

MP.2 Reason abstractly and quantitatively. *(3-LS4-1),(3-LS4-3),(3-LS4-4)*

MP.4 Model with mathematics. (3-LS2-1),*(3-LS4-1),(3-LS4-3),(3-LS4-4)*

MP.5 Use appropriate tools strategically. *(3-LS4-1)*

3.NBT Number and Operations in Base Ten (3-LS2-1)

3.MD.B.3 Draw a scaled picture graph and a scaled bar graph to represent a data set with several categories. Solve one- and two-step "how many more" and "how many less" problems using information presented in scaled bar graphs. *(3-LS4-3)*

3.MD.B.4 Generate measurement data by measuring lengths using rulers marked with halves and fourths of an inch. Show the data by making a line plot, where the horizontal scale is marked off in appropriate units—whole numbers, halves, or quarters. *(3-LS4-1)*

*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.

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3-LS2-1 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

3-LS2-1. Construct an argument that some animals form groups that help members survive.

The performance expectation above was developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

Science and Engineering Practices

Engaging in Argument from Evidence
Engaging in argument from evidence in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to critiquing the scientific explanations or solutions proposed by peers by citing relevant evidence about the natural and designed world(s).

- Construct an argument with evidence, data, and/or a model.

Disciplinary Core Ideas

LS2.D: Social Interactions and Group Behavior

- Being part of a group helps animals obtain food, defend themselves, and cope with changes. Groups may serve different functions and vary dramatically in size *(Note: Moved from K–2)*.

Crosscutting Concepts

Cause and Effect

- Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified and used to explain change.

Observable features of the student performance by the end of the grade:		
1	Supported claims	
	a	Students make a claim to be supported about a phenomenon. In their claim, students include the idea that some animals form groups and that being a member of that group helps each member survive.
2	Identifying scientific evidence	
	a	Students describe* the given evidence, data, and/or models necessary to support the claim, including:
		i. Identifying types of animals that form or live in groups of varying sizes.
		ii. Multiple examples of animals in groups of various sizes:
		1. Obtaining more food for each individual animal compared to the same type of animal looking for food individually.
		2. Displaying more success in defending themselves than those same animals acting alone.
		3. Making faster or better adjustments to harmful changes in their ecosystem than would those same animals acting alone.
3	Evaluating and critiquing evidence	
	a	Students evaluate the evidence to determine its relevance, and whether it supports the claim that being a member of a group has a survival advantage.
	b	Students describe* whether the given evidence is sufficient to support the claim and whether additional evidence is needed.
4	Reasoning and synthesis	
	a	Students use reasoning to construct an argument connecting the evidence, data and/or models to the claim. Students describe* the following reasoning in their argument:
		i. The causal evidence that being part of a group can have the effect of animals being more successful in obtaining food, defending themselves, and coping with change supports the claim that being a member of a group helps animals survive.
		ii. The causal evidence that an animal losing its group status can have the effect of the animal obtaining less food, not being able to defend itself, and not being able to cope with change supports the claim that being a member of a group helps animals survive.

3-LS4-1 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

3-LS4-1. **Analyze and interpret data from fossils to provide evidence of the organisms and the environments in which they lived long ago.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of data could include type, size, and distributions of fossil organisms. Examples of fossils and environments could include marine fossils found on dry land, tropical plant fossils found in Arctic areas, and fossils of extinct organisms.] [*Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include identification of specific fossils or present plants and animals. Assessment is limited to major fossil types and relative ages.*]

The performance expectation above was developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

Science and Engineering Practices

Analyzing and Interpreting Data
Analyzing data in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to introducing quantitative approaches to collecting data and conducting multiple trials of qualitative observations. When possible and feasible, digital tools should be used.

- Analyze and interpret data to make sense of phenomena using logical reasoning.

Disciplinary Core Ideas

LS4.A: Evidence of Common Ancestry and Diversity

- Some kinds of plants and animals that once lived on Earth are no longer found anywhere. *(Note: moved from K-2)*
- Fossils provide evidence about the types of organisms that lived long ago and also about the nature of their environments.

Crosscutting Concepts

Scale, Proportion, and Quantity

- Observable phenomena exist from very short to very long time periods.

Connections to Nature of Science

Scientific Knowledge Assumes an Order and Consistency in Natural Systems

- Science assumes consistent patterns in natural systems.

Observable features of the student performance by the end of the grade:			
1	Organizing data		
	a	Students use graphical displays (e.g., table, chart, graph) to organize the given data, including data about:	
		i.	Fossils of animals (e.g., information on type, size, type of land on which it was found).
		ii.	Fossils of plants (e.g., information on type, size, type of land on which it was found).
		iii.	The relative ages of fossils (e.g., from a very long time ago).
		iv.	Existence of modern counterparts to the fossilized plants and animals and information on where they currently live.
2	Identifying relationships		
	a	Students identify and describe* relationships in the data, including:	
		i.	That fossils represent plants and animals that lived long ago.
		ii.	The relationships between the fossils of organisms and the environments in which they lived (e.g., marine organisms, like fish, must have lived in water environments).
		iii.	The relationships between types of fossils (e.g., those of marine animals) and the current environments where similar organisms are found.
		iv.	That some fossils represent organisms that lived long ago and have no modern counterparts.
		v.	The relationships between fossils of organisms that lived long ago and their modern counterparts.
		vi.	The relationships between existing animals and the environments in which they currently live.
3	Interpreting data		
	a	Students describe* that:	
		i.	Fossils provide evidence of organisms that lived long ago but have become extinct (e.g., dinosaurs, mammoths, other organisms that have no clear modern counterpart).
		ii.	Features of fossils provide evidence of organisms that lived long ago and of what types of environments those organisms must have lived in (e.g., fossilized seashells indicate shelled organisms that lived in aquatic environments).

3-LS4-3 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

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.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of evidence could include needs and characteristics of the organisms and habitats involved. The organisms and their habitat make up a system in which the parts depend on each other.]

The performance expectation above was developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

Science and Engineering Practices

Engaging in Argument from Evidence
Engaging in argument from evidence in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to critiquing the scientific explanations or solutions proposed by peers by citing relevant evidence about the natural and designed world(s).

- Construct an argument with evidence.

Disciplinary Core Ideas

LS4.C: Adaptation

- For any particular environment, some kinds of organisms survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.

Crosscutting Concepts

Cause and Effect

- Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified and used to explain change.

Observable features of the student performance by the end of the grade:		
1	Supported claims	
	a	Students make a claim to be supported about a phenomenon. In their claim, students include the idea that in a particular habitat, some organisms can survive well, some can survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.
2	Identifying scientific evidence	
	a	Students describe* the given evidence necessary for supporting the claim, including:
		i. Characteristics of a given particular environment (e.g., soft earth, trees and shrubs, seasonal flowering plants).
		ii. Characteristics of a particular organism (e.g., plants with long, sharp leaves; rabbit coloration).
		iii. Needs of a particular organism (e.g., shelter from predators, food, water).
3	Evaluating and critiquing evidence	
	a	Students evaluate the evidence to determine:
		i. The characteristics of organisms that might affect survival.
		ii. The similarities and differences in needs among at least three types of organisms.
		iii. How and what features of the habitat meet the needs of each of the organisms (i.e., the degree to which a habitat meets the needs of an organism).
		iv. How and what features of the habitat do not meet the needs of each of the organisms (i.e., the degree to which a habitat does not meet the needs of an organism).
	b	Students evaluate the evidence to determine whether it is relevant to and supports the claim.
	c	Students describe* whether the given evidence is sufficient to support the claim, and whether additional evidence is needed.
4	Reasoning and synthesis	
	a	Students use reasoning to construct an argument, connecting the relevant and appropriate evidence to the claim, including describing* that any particular environment meets different organisms' needs to different degrees due to the characteristics of that environment and the needs of the organisms. Students describe* a chain of reasoning in their argument, including the following cause-and-effect relationships:
		i. If an environment fully meets the needs of an organism, that organism can survive well within that environment.
		ii. If an environment partially meets the needs of an organism, that organism can survive less well (e.g., lower survival rate, increased sickliness, shorter lifespan) than organisms whose needs are met within that environment.

		iii.	If an environment does not meet the needs of the organism, that organism cannot survive within that environment.
		iv.	Together, the evidence suggests a causal relationship within the system between the characteristics of a habitat and the survival of organisms within it.

3-LS4-4 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

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.*** [Clarification Statement: Examples of environmental changes could include changes in land characteristics, water distribution, temperature, food, and other organisms.] [*Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to a single environmental change. Assessment does not include the greenhouse effect or climate change.*]

The performance expectation above was developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

Science and Engineering Practices

Engaging in Argument from Evidence
Engaging in argument from evidence in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to critiquing the scientific explanations or solutions proposed by peers by citing relevant evidence about the natural and designed world(s).

- Make a claim about the merit of a solution to a problem by citing relevant evidence about how it meets the criteria and constraints of the problem.

Disciplinary Core Ideas

LS2.C: Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience

- When the environment changes in ways that affect a place's physical characteristics, temperature, or availability of resources, some organisms survive and reproduce, others move to new locations, yet others move into the transformed environment, and some die.*(secondary)*

LS4.D: Biodiversity and Humans

- Populations live in a variety of habitats, and change in those habitats affects the organisms living there.

Crosscutting Concepts

Systems and System Models

- A system can be described in terms of its components and their interactions.

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Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science

Interdependence of Engineering, Technology, and Science on Society and the Natural World

- Knowledge of relevant scientific concepts and research findings is important in engineering.

Observable features of the student performance by the end of the grade:		
1	Supported claims	
	a	Students make a claim about the merit of a given solution to a problem that is caused when the environment changes, which results in changes in the types of plants and animals that live there.
2	Identifying scientific evidence	
	a	Students describe* the given evidence about how the solution meets the given criteria and constraints. This evidence includes:
		i. A system of plants, animals, and a given environment within which they live before the given environmental change occurs.
		ii. A given change in the environment.
		iii. How the change in the given environment causes a problem for the existing plants and animals living within that area.
		iv. The effect of the solution on the plants and animals within the environment.
		v. The resulting changes to plants and animals living within that changed environment, after the solution has been implemented.
3	Evaluating and critiquing evidence	
	a	Students evaluate the solution to the problem to determine the merit of the solution. Students describe* how well the proposed solution meets the given criteria and constraints to reduce the impact of the problem created by the environmental change in the system, including:
		i. How well the proposed solution meets the given criteria and constraints to reduce the impact of the problem created by the environmental change in the system, including:
		1. How the solution makes changes to one part (e.g., a feature of the environment) of the system, affecting the other parts of the system (e.g., plants and animals).
		2. How the solution affects plants and animals.

	b	Students evaluate the evidence to determine whether it is relevant to and supports the claim.
	c	Students describe* whether the given evidence is sufficient to support the claim, and whether additional evidence is needed.

3.Inheritance and Variation of Traits: Life Cycles and Traits

3.Inheritance and Variation of Traits: Life Cycles and Traits

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

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. [Clarification Statement: Changes organisms go through during their life form a pattern.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment of plant life cycles is limited to those of flowering plants. Assessment does not include details of human reproduction.]

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. [Clarification Statement: Patterns are the similarities and differences in traits shared between offspring and their parents, or among siblings. Emphasis is on organisms other than humans.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include genetic mechanisms of inheritance and prediction of traits. Assessment is limited to non-human examples.]

3-LS3-2. Use evidence to support the explanation that traits can be influenced by the environment. [Clarification Statement: Examples of the environment affecting a trait could include normally tall plants grown with insufficient water are stunted; and, a pet dog that is given too much food and little exercise may become overweight.]

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. [Clarification Statement: Examples of cause and effect relationships could be plants that have larger thorns than other plants may be less likely to be eaten by predators; and, animals that have better camouflage coloration than other animals may be more likely to survive and therefore more likely to leave offspring.]

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

Science and Engineering Practices

Developing and Using Models
Modeling in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to building and revising simple models and using models to represent events and design solutions.
- Develop models to describe phenomena. (3-LS1-1)

Analyzing and Interpreting Data
Analyzing data in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to introducing quantitative approaches to collecting data and conducting multiple trials of qualitative observations.
When possible and feasible, digital tools should be used.
- Analyze and interpret data to make sense of phenomena using logical reasoning. (3-LS3-1)

Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions
Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to the use of evidence in constructing explanations that specify variables that describe and predict phenomena and in designing multiple solutions to design problems.
- Use evidence (e.g., observations, patterns) to support an explanation. (3-LS3-2)
- Use evidence (e.g., observations, patterns) to construct an explanation. (3-LS4-2)

Connections to Nature of Science

Scientific Knowledge is Based on Empirical Evidence
- Science findings are based on recognizing patterns. (3-LS1-1)

Disciplinary Core Ideas

LS1.B: Growth and Development of Organisms
- Reproduction is essential to the continued existence of every kind of organism. Plants and animals have unique and diverse life cycles. (3-LS1-1)

LS3.A: Inheritance of Traits
- Many characteristics of organisms are inherited from their parents. (3-LS3-1)
- Other characteristics result from individuals' interactions with the environment, which can range from diet to learning. Many characteristics involve both inheritance and environment. (3-LS3-2)

LS3.B: Variation of Traits
- Different organisms vary in how they look and function because they have different inherited information. (3-LS3-1)
- The environment also affects the traits that an organism develops. (3-LS3-2)

LS4.B: Natural Selection
- Sometimes the differences in characteristics between individuals of the same species provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing. (3-LS4-2)

Crosscutting Concepts

Patterns
- Similarities and differences in patterns can be used to sort and classify natural phenomena. (3-LS3-1)
- Patterns of change can be used to make predictions. (3-LS1-1)

Cause and Effect
- Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified and used to explain change. (3-LS3-2),(3-LS4-2)

Connections to other DCIs in third grade: **3.LS4.C** (3-LS4-2)

Articulation of DCIs across grade-levels: **1.LS3.A** (3-LS3-1),(3-LS4-2); **1.LS3.B** (3-LS3-1); **MS.LS1.B** (3-LS1-1), (3-LS3-2); **MS.LS2.A** (3-LS4-2); **MS.LS3.A** (3-LS3-1); **MS.LS3.B** (3-LS3-1),(3-LS4-2); **MS.LS4.B** (3-LS4-2)

Common Core State Standards Connections:

ELA/Literacy –

RI.3.1	Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers. (3-LS3-1),(3-LS3-2),*(3-LS4-2)*
RI.3.2	Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea. *(3-LS3-1),(3-LS3-2),(3-LS4-2)*
RI.3.3	Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect. (3-LS3-1),*(3-LS3-2),(3-LS4-2)*
RI.3.7	Use information gained from illustrations (e.g., maps, photographs) and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur). *(3-LS1-1)*
W.3.2	Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly. *(3-LS3-1),*(3-LS3-2),(3-LS4-2)
SL.3.4	Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking clearly at an understandable pace. *(3-LS3-1),(3-LS3-2),(3-LS4-2)*
SL.3.5	Create engaging audio recordings of stories or poems that demonstrate fluid reading at an understandable pace; add visual displays when appropriate to emphasize or enhance certain facts or details. *(3-LS1-1)*

Mathematics –

MP.2	Reason abstractly and quantitatively. *(3-LS3-1),(3-LS3-2),(3-LS4-2)*
MP.4	Model with mathematics. *(3-LS1-1),(3-LS3-1),(3-LS3-2),(3-LS4-2)*
3.NBT	Number and Operations in Base Ten *(3-LS1-1)*
3.NF	Number and Operations—Fractions *(3-LS1-1)*
3.MD.B.3	Draw a scaled picture graph and a scaled bar graph to represent a data set with several categories. Solve one- and two-step "how many more" and "how many less" problems using information presented in scaled bar graphs. *(3-LS4-2)*
3.MD.B.4	Generate measurement data by measuring lengths using rulers marked with halves and fourths of an inch. Show the data by making a line plot, where the horizontal scale is marked off in appropriate units—whole numbers, halves, or quarters. *(3-LS3-1),(3-LS3-2)*

*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.

3-LS1-1 From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

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.** [Clarification Statement: Changes organisms go through during their life form a pattern.] [*Assessment Boundary: Assessment of plant life cycles is limited to those of flowering plants. Assessment does not include details of human reproduction.*]

The performance expectation above was developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

Science and Engineering Practices

Developing and Using Models
Modeling in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to building and revising simple models and using models to represent events and design solutions.

- Develop models to describe phenomena.

- -

Connections to Nature of Science

Scientific Knowledge is Based on Empirical Evidence

- Science findings are based on recognizing patterns.

Disciplinary Core Ideas

LS1.B: Growth and Development of Organisms

- Reproduction is essential to the continued existence of every kind of organism. Plants and animals have unique and diverse life cycles.

Crosscutting Concepts

Patterns

- Patterns of change can be used to make predictions.

Observable features of the student performance by the end of the grade:		
1	Components of the model	
	a	Students develop models (e.g., conceptual, physical, drawing) to describe* the phenomenon. In their models, students identify the relevant components of their models including:
		i. Organisms (both plant and animal).
		ii. Birth.
		iii. Growth.
		iv. Reproduction.
		v. Death.
2	Relationships	
	a	In the models, students describe* relationships between components, including:
		i. Organisms are born, grow, and die in a pattern known as a life cycle.
		ii. Different organisms' life cycles can look very different.
		iii. A causal direction of the cycle (e.g., without birth, there is no growth; without reproduction, there are no births).
3	Connections	
	a	Students use the models to describe* that although organisms can display life cycles that look different, they all follow the same pattern.
	b	Students use the models to make predictions related to the phenomenon, based on patterns identified among life cycles (e.g., prediction could include that if there are no births, deaths will continue and eventually there will be no more of that type of organism).

3-LS3-1 Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

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.** [Clarification Statement: Patterns are the similarities and differences in traits shared between offspring and their parents, or among siblings. Emphasis is on organisms other than humans.] [*Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include genetic mechanisms of inheritance and prediction of traits. Assessment is limited to non-human examples.*]

The performance expectation above was developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

Science and Engineering Practices

Analyzing and Interpreting Data

Analyzing data in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to introducing quantitative approaches to collecting data and conducting multiple trials of qualitative observations. When possible and feasible, digital tools should be used.

- Analyze and interpret data to make sense of phenomena using logical reasoning.

Disciplinary Core Ideas

LS3.A: Inheritance of Traits

- Many characteristics of organisms are inherited from their parents.

LS3.B: Variation of Traits

- Different organisms vary in how they look and function because they have different inherited information.

Crosscutting Concepts

Patterns

- Similarities and differences in patterns can be used to sort and classify natural phenomena.

Observable features of the student performance by the end of the grade:			
1	Organizing data		
	a	Students organize the data (e.g., from students' previous work, grade-appropriate existing datasets) using graphical displays (e.g., table, chart, graph). The organized data include:	
		i.	Traits of plant and animal parents.
		ii.	Traits of plant and animal offspring.
		iii.	Variations in similar traits in a grouping of similar organisms.
2	Identifying relationships		
	a	Students identify and describe* patterns in the data, including:	
		i.	Similarities in the traits of a parent and the traits of an offspring (e.g., tall plants typically have tall offspring).
		ii.	Similarities in traits among siblings (e.g., siblings often resemble each other).
		iii.	Differences in traits in a group of similar organisms (e.g., dogs come in many shapes and sizes, a field of corn plants have plants of different heights).
		iv.	Differences in traits of parents and offspring (e.g., offspring do not look exactly like their parents).
		v.	Differences in traits among siblings (e.g., kittens from the same mother may not look exactly like their mother).
3	Interpreting data		
	a	Students describe* that the pattern of similarities in traits between parents and offspring, and between siblings, provides evidence that traits are inherited.	
	b	Students describe* that the pattern of differences in traits between parents and offspring, and between siblings, provides evidence that inherited traits can vary.	
	c	Students describe* that the variation in inherited traits results in a pattern of variation in traits in groups of organisms that are of a similar type.	

3-LS3-2 Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

3-LS3-2. **Use evidence to support the explanation that traits can be influenced by the environment.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of the environment affecting a trait could include normally tall plants grown with insufficient water are stunted; and, a pet dog that is given too much food and little exercise may become overweight.]

The performance expectation above was developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

Science and Engineering Practices

Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions

Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to the use of evidence in constructing explanations that specify variables that describe and predict phenomena and in designing multiple solutions to design problems.

- Use evidence (e.g., observations, patterns) to support an explanation.

Disciplinary Core Ideas

LS3.A: Inheritance of Traits

- Other characteristics result from individuals' interactions with the environment, which can range from diet to learning. Many characteristics involve both inheritance and environment.

LS3.B: Variation of Traits

- The environment also affects the traits that an organism develops.

Crosscutting Concepts

Cause and Effect

- Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified and used to explain change.

Observable features of the student performance by the end of the grade:		
1	Articulating the explanation of phenomena	
	a	Students identify the given explanation to be supported, including a statement that relates the phenomenon to a scientific idea, including that many inherited traits can be influenced by the environment.
2	Evidence	
	a	Students describe* the given evidence that supports the explanation, including:
		i. Environmental factors that vary for organisms of the same type (e.g., amount or food, amount of water, amount of exercise an animal gets, chemicals in the water) that may influence organisms' traits.
		ii. Inherited traits that vary between organisms of the same type (e.g., height or weight of a plant or animal, color or quantity of the flowers).
		iii. Observable inherited traits of organisms in varied environmental conditions
3	Reasoning	
	a	Students use reasoning to connect the evidence and support an explanation about environmental influences on inherited traits in organisms. In their chain of reasoning, students describe* a cause-and-effect relationship between a specific causal environmental factor and its effect of a given variation in a trait (e.g., not enough water produces plants that are shorter and have fewer flowers than plants that had more water available).

3-LS4-2 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

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.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of cause and effect relationships could be plants that have larger thorns than other plants may be less likely to be eaten by predators; and, animals that have better camouflage coloration than other animals may be more likely to survive and therefore more likely to leave offspring.]

The performance expectation above was developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

Science and Engineering Practices	Disciplinary Core Ideas	Crosscutting Concepts
Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to the use of evidence in constructing explanations that specify variables that describe and predict phenomena and in designing multiple solutions to design problems. • Use evidence (e.g., observations, patterns) to construct an explanation.	**LS4.B: Natural Selection** • Sometimes the differences in characteristics between individuals of the same species provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing.	**Cause and Effect** • Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified and used to explain change.

Observable features of the student performance by the end of the grade:		
1	Articulating the explanation of phenomena	
	a	Students articulate a statement that relates the given phenomenon to a scientific idea, including that variations in characteristics among individuals of the same species may provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing.
	b	Students use evidence and reasoning to construct an explanation for the phenomenon.
2	Evidence	
	a	Students describe* the given evidence necessary for the explanation, including:
		i. A given characteristic of a species (e.g., thorns on a plant, camouflage of an animal, the coloration of moths).
		ii. The patterns of variation of a given characteristic among individuals in a species (e.g., longer or shorter thorns on individual plants, dark or light coloration of animals).
		iii. Potential benefits of a given variation of the characteristic (e.g., the light coloration of some moths makes them difficult to see on the bark of a tree).
3	Reasoning	
	a	Students use reasoning to logically connect the evidence to support the explanation for the phenomenon. Students describe* a chain of reasoning that includes:
		i. That certain variations in characteristics make it harder or easier for an animal to survive, find mates, and reproduce (e.g., longer thorns prevent predators more effectively and increase the likelihood of survival; light coloration of some moths provides camouflage in certain environments, making it more likely that they will live long enough to be able to mate and reproduce).
		ii. That the characteristics that make it easier for some organisms to survive, find mates, and reproduce give those organisms an advantage over other organisms of the same species that don't have those traits.
		iii. That there can be a cause-and-effect relationship between a specific variation in a characteristic (e.g., longer thorns, coloration of moths) and its effect on the ability of the individual organism to survive and reproduce (e.g., plants with longer thorns are less likely to be eaten, darker moths are less likely to be seen and eaten on dark trees).

3.Weather and Climate

3.Weather and Climate

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

3-ESS2-1. Represent data in tables and graphical displays to describe typical weather conditions expected during a particular season. [Clarification Statement: Examples of data could include average temperature, precipitation, and wind direction.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment of graphical displays is limited to pictographs and bar graphs. Assessment does not include climate change.]

3-ESS2-2. Obtain and combine information to describe climates in different regions of the world.

3-ESS3-1. Make a claim about the merit of a design solution that reduces the impacts of a weather-related hazard.* [Clarification Statement: Examples of design solutions to weather-related hazards could include barriers to prevent flooding, wind resistant roofs, and lightning rods.]

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

Science and Engineering Practices

Analyzing and Interpreting Data
Analyzing data in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to introducing quantitative approaches to collecting data and conducting multiple trials of qualitative observations. When possible and feasible, digital tools should be used.

- Represent data in tables and various graphical displays (bar graphs and pictographs) to reveal patterns that indicate relationships. (3-ESS2-1)

Engaging in Argument from Evidence
Engaging in argument from evidence in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to critiquing the scientific explanations or solutions proposed by peers by citing relevant evidence about the natural and designed world(s).

- Make a claim about the merit of a solution to a problem by citing relevant evidence about how it meets the criteria and constraints of the problem. (3-ESS3-1)

Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information
Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to evaluating the merit and accuracy of ideas and methods.

- Obtain and combine information from books and other reliable media to explain phenomena. (3-ESS2-2)

Disciplinary Core Ideas

ESS2.D: Weather and Climate

- Scientists record patterns of the weather across different times and areas so that they can make predictions about what kind of weather might happen next. (3-ESS2-1)
- Climate describes a range of an area's typical weather conditions and the extent to which those conditions vary over years. (3-ESS2-2)

ESS3.B: Natural Hazards

- A variety of natural hazards result from natural processes. Humans cannot eliminate natural hazards but can take steps to reduce their impacts. (3-ESS3-1) *(Note: This Disciplinary Core Idea is also addressed by 4-ESS3-2.)*

Crosscutting Concepts

Patterns

- Patterns of change can be used to make predictions. (3-ESS2-1),(3-ESS2-2)

Cause and Effect

- Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified, tested, and used to explain change. (3-ESS3-1)

Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science

Influence of Engineering, Technology, and Science on Society and the Natural World

- Engineers improve existing technologies or develop new ones to increase their benefits (e.g., better artificial limbs), decrease known risks (e.g., seatbelts in cars), and meet societal demands (e.g., cell phones). (3-ESS3-1)

Connections to Nature of Science

Science is a Human Endeavor

- Science affects everyday life. (3-ESS3-1)

Connections to other DCIs in third grade: N/A

Articulation of DCIs across grade-levels: **K.ESS2.D** (3-ESS2-1); **K.ESS3.B** (3-ESS3-1); **K.ETS1.A** (3-ESS3-1); **4.ESS2.A** (3-ESS2-1); **4.ESS3.B** (3-ESS3-1); **4.ETS1.A** (3-ESS3-1); **5.ESS2.A** (3-ESS2-1); **MS.ESS2.C** (3-ESS2-1),(3-ESS2-2); **MS.ESS2.D** (3-ESS2-1),(3-ESS2-2); **MS.ESS3.B** (3-ESS3-1)

Common Core State Standards Connections:

ELA/Literacy –

RI.3.1 Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers. *(3-ESS2-2)*

RI.3.9 Compare and contrast the most important points and key details presented in two texts on the same topic. (3-ESS2-2)

W.3.1 Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons. *(3-ESS3-1)*

W.3.7 Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic. *(3-ESS3-1)*

W.3.8 Recall information from experiences or gather information from print and digital sources; take brief notes on sources and sort evidence into provided categories. (3-ESS2-2)

Mathematics –

MP.2 Reason abstractly and quantitatively. (3-ESS2-1),(3-ESS2-2),*(3-ESS3-1)*

MP.4 Model with mathematics. (3-ESS2-1),(3-ESS2-2), *(3-ESS3-1)*

MP.5 Use appropriate tools strategically. *(3-ESS2-1)*

3.MD.A.2 Measure and estimate liquid volumes and masses of objects using standard units of grams (g), kilograms (kg), and liters (l). Add, subtract, multiply, or divide to solve one-step word problems involving masses or volumes that are given in the same units, e.g., by using drawings (such as a beaker with a measurement scale) to represent the problem. *(3-ESS2-1)*

3.MD.B.3 Draw a scaled picture graph and a scaled bar graph to represent a data set with several categories. Solve one- and two-step "how many more" and "how many less" problems using information presented in bar graphs. (3-ESS2-1)

*The performance expectations marked with an asterisk integrate traditional science content with engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea.

3-ESS2-1 Earth's Systems

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

3-ESS2-1. **Represent data in tables and graphical displays to describe typical weather conditions expected during a particular season.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of data could include average temperature, precipitation, and wind direction.] [*Assessment Boundary: Assessment of graphical displays is limited to pictographs and bar graphs. Assessment does not include climate change.*]

The performance expectation above was developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

Science and Engineering Practices

Analyzing and Interpreting Data
Analyzing data in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to introducing quantitative approaches to collecting data and conducting multiple trials of qualitative observations. When possible and feasible, digital tools should be used.

- Represent data in tables and various graphical displays (bar graphs and pictographs) to reveal patterns that indicate relationships.

Disciplinary Core Ideas

ESS2.D: Weather and Climate

- Scientists record patterns of the weather across different times and areas so that they can make predictions about what kind of weather might happen next.

Crosscutting Concepts

Patterns

- Patterns of change can be used to make predictions.

Observable features of the student performance by the end of the grade:			
1	Organizing data		
	a	Students use graphical displays (e.g., table, chart, graph) to organize the given data by season using tables, pictographs, and/or bar charts, including:	
		i.	Weather condition data from the same area across multiple seasons (e.g., average temperature, precipitation, wind direction).
		ii.	Weather condition data from different areas (e.g., hometown and nonlocal areas, such as a town in another state).
2	Identifying relationships		
	a	Students identify and describe* patterns of weather conditions across:	
		i.	Different seasons (e.g., cold and dry in the winter, hot and wet in the summer; more or less wind in a particular season).
		ii.	Different areas (e.g., certain areas (defined by location, such as a town in the Pacific Northwest), have high precipitation, while a different area (based on location or type, such as a town in the Southwest) have very little precipitation).
3	Interpreting data		
	a	Students use patterns of weather conditions in different seasons and different areas to predict:	
		i.	The typical weather conditions expected during a particular season (e.g., “In our town in the summer it is typically hot, as indicated on a bar graph over time, while in the winter it is typically cold; therefore, the prediction is that next summer it will be hot and next winter it will be cold.”).
		ii.	The typical weather conditions expected during a particular season in different areas.

3-ESS2-2 Earth's Systems

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

3-ESS2-2. Obtain and combine information to describe climates in different regions of the world.

The performance expectation above was developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

Science and Engineering Practices

Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information

Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to evaluating the merit and accuracy of ideas and methods.

- Obtain and combine information from books and other reliable media to explain phenomena.

Disciplinary Core Ideas

ESS2.D: Weather and Climate

- Climate describes a range of an area's typical weather conditions and the extent to which those conditions vary over years.

Crosscutting Concepts

Patterns

- Patterns of change can be used to make predictions.

Observable features of the student performance by the end of the grade:		
1	Obtaining information	
	a	Students use books and other reliable media to gather information about:
		i. Climates in different regions of the world (e.g., equatorial, polar, coastal, mid-continental).
		ii. Variations in climates within different regions of the world (e.g., variations could include an area's average temperatures and precipitation during various months over several years or an area's average rainfall and temperatures during the rainy season over several years).
2	Evaluating information	
	a	Students combine obtained information to provide evidence about the climate pattern in a region that can be used to make predictions about typical weather conditions in that region.
3	Communicating information	
	a	Students use the information they obtained and combined to describe*:
		i. Climates in different regions of the world.
		ii. Examples of how patterns in climate could be used to predict typical weather conditions.
		iii. That climate can vary over years in different regions of the world.

3-ESS3-1 Earth and Human Activity

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

3-ESS3-1. **Make a claim about the merit of a design solution that reduces the impacts of a weather-related hazard.*** [Clarification Statement: Examples of design solutions to weather-related hazards could include barriers to prevent flooding, wind resistant roofs, and lighting rods.]

The performance expectation above was developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

Science and Engineering Practices

Engaging in Argument from Evidence
Engaging in argument from evidence in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to critiquing the scientific explanations or solutions proposed by peers by citing relevant evidence about the natural and designed world(s).

- Make a claim about the merit of a solution to a problem by citing relevant evidence about how it meets the criteria and constraints of the problem.

Disciplinary Core Ideas

ESS3.B: Natural Hazards

- A variety of natural hazards result from natural processes. Humans cannot eliminate natural hazards but can take steps to reduce their impacts. *(Note: This Disciplinary Core Idea is also addressed by 4-ESS3-2.)*

Crosscutting Concepts

Cause and Effect

- Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified, tested, and used to explain change.

Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science

Influence of Engineering, Technology, and Science on Society and the Natural World

- Engineers improve existing technologies or develop new ones to increase their benefits (e.g., better artificial limbs), decrease known risks (e.g., seatbelts in cars), and meet societal demands (e.g., cell phones).

Connections to Nature of Science

Science is a Human Endeavor

- Science affects everyday life.

Observable features of the student performance by the end of the grade:		
1	Supported claims	
	a	Students make a claim about the merit of a given design solution that reduces the impact of a weather-related hazard.
2	Identifying scientific evidence	
	a	Students describe* the given evidence about the design solution, including evidence about:
		i. The given weather-related hazard (e.g., heavy rain or snow, strong winds, lightning, flooding along river banks).
		ii. Problems caused by the weather related hazard (e.g., heavy rains cause flooding, lightning causes fires).
		iii. How the proposed solution addresses the problem (e.g., dams and levees are designed to control flooding, lightning rods reduce the chance of fires) [note: mechanisms are limited to simple observable relationships that rely on logical reasoning].
3	Evaluating and critiquing evidence	
	a	Students evaluate the evidence using given criteria and constraints to determine:
		i. How the proposed solution addresses the problem, including the impact of the weather-related hazard after the design solution has been implemented.
		ii. The merits of a given solution in reducing the impact of a weather-related hazard (i.e., whether the design solution meets the given criteria and constraints].
		iii. The benefits and risks a given solution poses when responding to the societal demand to reduce the impact of a hazard.

3-5.Engineering Design

3-5.Engineering Design

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

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.

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.

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.

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

Science and Engineering Practices

Asking Questions and Defining Problems
Asking questions and defining problems in 3–5 builds on grades K–2 experiences and progresses to specifying qualitative relationships.

- Define a simple design problem that can be solved through the development of an object, tool, process, or system and includes several criteria for success and constraints on materials, time, or cost. (3-5-ETS1-1)

Planning and Carrying Out Investigations
Planning and carrying out investigations to answer questions or test solutions to problems in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to include investigations that control variables and provide evidence to support explanations or design solutions.

- Plan and conduct an investigation collaboratively to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence, using fair tests in which variables are controlled and the number of trials considered. (3-5-ETS1-3)

Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions
Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to the use of evidence in constructing explanations that specify variables that describe and predict phenomena and in designing multiple solutions to design problems.

- Generate and compare multiple solutions to a problem based on how well they meet the criteria and constraints of the design problem. (3-5-ETS1-2)

Disciplinary Core Ideas

ETS1.A: Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems

- Possible solutions to a problem are limited by available materials and resources (constraints). The success of a designed solution is determined by considering the desired features of a solution (criteria). Different proposals for solutions can be compared on the basis of how well each one meets the specified criteria for success or how well each takes the constraints into account. (3-5-ETS1-1)

ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions

- Research on a problem should be carried out before beginning to design a solution. Testing a solution involves investigating how well it performs under a range of likely conditions. (3-5-ETS1-2)
- At whatever stage, communicating with peers about proposed solutions is an important part of the design process, and shared ideas can lead to improved designs. (3-5-ETS1-2)
- Tests are often designed to identify failure points or difficulties, which suggest the elements of the design that need to be improved. (3-5-ETS1-3)

ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution

- Different solutions need to be tested in order to determine which of them best solves the problem, given the criteria and the constraints. (3-5-ETS1-3)

Crosscutting Concepts

Influence of Science, Engineering, and Technology on Society and the Natural World

- People's needs and wants change over time, as do their demands for new and improved technologies. (3-5-ETS1-1)
- Engineers improve existing technologies or develop new ones to increase their benefits, decrease known risks, and meet societal demands. (3-5-ETS1-2)

Connections to 3-5-ETS1.A: Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems include:
Fourth Grade: 4-PS3-4
Connections to 3-5-ETS1.B: Designing Solutions to Engineering Problems include:
Fourth Grade: 4-ESS3-2
Connections to 3-5-ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution include:
Fourth Grade: 4-PS4-3

Articulation of DCIs across grade-bands: **K-2.ETS1.A** (3-5-ETS1-1),(3-5-ETS1-2),(3-5-ETS1-3); **K-2.ETS1.B** (3-5-ETS1-2); **K-2.ETS1.C** (3-5-ETS1-2),(3-5-ETS1-3); **MS.ETS1.A** (3-5-ETS1-1); **MS.ETS1.B** (3-5-ETS1-1),(3-5-ETS1-2),(3-5-ETS1-3); **MS.ETS1.C** (3-5-ETS1-2),(3-5-ETS1-3)

Common Core State Standards Connections:

ELA/Literacy –

RI.5.1 Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text. *(3-5-ETS1-2)*
RI.5.7 Draw on information from multiple print or digital sources, demonstrating the ability to locate an answer to a question quickly or to solve a problem efficiently. *(3-5-ETS1-2)*
RI.5.9 Integrate information from several texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably. (3-5-ETS1-2)
W.5.7 Conduct short research projects that use several sources to build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic. (3-5-ETS1-1),(3-5-ETS1-3)
W.5.8 Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; summarize or paraphrase information in notes and finished work, and provide a list of sources. *(3-5-ETS1-1),(3-5-ETS1-3)*
W.5.9 Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. *(3-5-ETS1-1),(3-5-ETS1-3)*

Mathematics –

MP.2 Reason abstractly and quantitatively. *(3-5-ETS1-1),(3-5-ETS1-2),(3-5-ETS1-3)*
MP.4 Model with mathematics. *(3-5-ETS1-1),(3-5-ETS1-2),(3-5-ETS1-3)*
MP.5 Use appropriate tools strategically. *(3-5-ETS1-1),(3-5-ETS1-2),(3-5-ETS1-3)*
3-5.OA Operations and Algebraic Thinking *(3-5-ETS1-1),(3-5-ETS1-2)*

3-5-ETS1-1 Engineering Design

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

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.

The performance expectation above was developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K- 12 Science Education*:

Science and Engineering Practices

Asking Questions and Defining Problems
Asking questions and defining problems in 3–5 builds on grades K–2 experiences and progresses to specifying qualitative relationships.

- Define a simple design problem that can be solved through the development of an object, tool, process, or system and includes several criteria for success and constraints on materials, time, or cost.

Disciplinary Core Ideas

ETS1.A: Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems

- Possible solutions to a problem are limited by available materials and resources (constraints). The success of a designed solution is determined by considering the desired features of a solution (criteria). Different proposals for solutions can be compared on the basis of how well each one meets the specified criteria for success or how well each takes the constraints into account.

Crosscutting Concepts

Influence of Science, Engineering, and Technology on Society and the Natural World

- People's needs and wants change over time, as do their demands for new and improved technologies.

Observable features of the student performance by the end of the grade:		
1	Identifying the problem to be solved	
	a	Students use given scientific information and information about a situation or phenomenon to define a simple design problem that includes responding to a need or want.
	b	The problem students define is one that can be solved with the development of a new or improved object, tool, process, or system.
	c	Students describe* that people's needs and wants change over time.
2	Defining the boundaries of the system	
	a	Students define the limits within which the problem will be addressed, which includes addressing something people want and need at the current time.
3	Defining the criteria and constraints	
	a	Based on the situation people want to change, students specify criteria (required features) of a successful solution.
	b	Students describe* the constraints or limitations on their design, which may include:
		i. Cost.
		ii. Materials.
		iii. Time.

3-5-ETS1-2 Engineering Design

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

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.

The performance expectation above was developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K- 12 Science Education*:

Science and Engineering Practices

Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions

Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to the use of evidence in constructing explanations that specify variables that describe and predict phenomena and in designing multiple solutions to design problems.

- Generate and compare multiple solutions to a problem based on how well they meet the criteria and constraints of the design problem.

Disciplinary Core Ideas

ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions

- Research on a problem should be carried out before beginning to design a solution. Testing a solution involves investigating how well it performs under a range of likely conditions.
- At whatever stage, communicating with peers about proposed solutions is an important part of the design process, and shared ideas can lead to improved designs.

Crosscutting Concepts

Influence of Science, Engineering, and Technology on Society and the Natural World

- Engineers improve existing technologies or develop new ones to increase their benefits, decrease known risks, and meet societal demands.

Observable features of the student performance by the end of the grade:		
1	Using scientific knowledge to generate design solutions	
	a	Students use grade-appropriate information from research about a given problem, including the causes and effects of the problem and relevant scientific information.
	b	Students generate at least two possible solutions to the problem based on scientific information and understanding of the problem.
	c	Students specify how each design solution solves the problem.
	d	Students share ideas and findings with others about design solutions to generate a variety of possible solutions.
	e	Students describe* the necessary steps for designing a solution to a problem, including conducting research and communicating with others throughout the design process to improve the design [note: emphasis is on what is necessary for designing solutions, not on a step-wise process].
2	Describing* criteria and constraints, including quantification when appropriate	
	a	Students describe*:
		i. The given criteria (required features) and constraints (limits) for the solutions, including increasing benefits, decreasing risks/costs, and meeting societal demands as appropriate.
		ii. How the criteria and constraints will be used to generate and test the design solutions.
3	Evaluating potential solutions	
	a	Students test each solution under a range of likely conditions and gather data to determine how well the solutions meet the criteria and constraints of the problem.
	b	Students use the collected data to compare solutions based on how well each solution meets the criteria and constraints of the problem.

3-5-ETS1-3 Engineering Design

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

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.**

The performance expectation above was developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K- 12 Science Education*:

Science and Engineering Practices	Disciplinary Core Ideas	Crosscutting Concepts
Planning and Carrying Out Investigations Planning and carrying out investigations to answer questions or test solutions to problems in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to include investigations that control variables and provide evidence to support explanations or design solutions. • Plan and conduct an investigation collaboratively to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence, using fair tests in which variables are controlled and the number of trials considered.	**ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions** • Tests are often designed to identify failure points or difficulties, which suggest the elements of the design that need to be improved. **ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution** • Different solutions need to be tested in order to determine which of them best solves the problem, given the criteria and the constraints.	

Observable features of the student performance by the end of the grade:		
1	Identifying the purpose of the investigation	
	a	Students describe* the purpose of the investigation, which includes finding possible failure points or difficulties to identify aspects of a model or prototype that can be improved.
2	Identifying the evidence to be address the purpose of the investigation	
	a	Students describe* the evidence to be collected, including:
		i. How well the model/prototype performs against the given criteria and constraints.
		ii. Specific aspects of the prototype or model that do not meet one or more of the criteria or constraints (i.e., failure points or difficulties).
		iii. Aspects of the model/prototype that can be improved to better meet the criteria and constraints.
	b	Students describe* how the evidence is relevant to the purpose of the investigation.
3	Planning the investigation	
	a	Students create a plan for the investigation that describes* different tests for each aspect of the criteria and constraints. For each aspect, students describe*:
		i. The specific criterion or constraint to be used.
		ii. What is to be changed in each trial (the independent variable).
		iii. The outcome (dependent variable) that will be measured to determine success.
		iv. What tools and methods are to be used for collecting data.
		v. What is to be kept the same from trial to trial to ensure a fair test.
4	Collecting the data	
	a	Students carry out the investigation, collecting and recording data according to the developed plan.