MONTESSORI CURRICULUM TO STANDARDS ALIGNMENT

ELEMENTARY • 1ST-6TH GRADE

BIOLOGY

NATIONAL CENTER for MONTESSORI in the PUBLIC SECTOR

Montessori Curriculum to Standards Alignment Elementary • 1st-6th Grade Biology

National Center for Montessori in the Public Sector

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Assessment vocabulary drawn from Marzano Resources free online resource, Basic Vocabulary Terms (marzanoresources.com/media/documents/reproducibles/vocab-common-core/basic-terms-and-phrases.pdf)

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FOUNDATIONS

GREAT STORY: THE COMING OF LIFE

SKILLS INVENTORY

Lower Elementary

Listens to stories about significant historical changes and is inspired to gather additional information to clarify or deepen understanding.

MONTESSORI LESSONS	PURPOSES
INITIAL SERIES	
Great Story: The Coming of Life	 To generate questions about individuals and groups who have shaped a significant historical change.
	 To inspire children to ask and answer questions about information that has been presented orally.
	 To inspire children to gather additional information to clarify comprehension or deepen understanding.
	To introduce the idea that life has not always existed on earth.To inspire further study of the history of life on earth.

INITIAL SERIES		
answer	Cognitive Verbs	
ask	answer	
detail	ask	
information	clarify	
issue	describe	
media/medium	present	
question	recount	
speaker		
text		
topic		

ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Students will not be assessed on the contents of the Great Stories.

COLLEGE, CAREER AND CIVIC LIFE (C3) FRAMEWORK FOR STATE SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

HISTORY (D2.HIS)

CHANGE, CONTINUITY AND CONTEXT				
His.3.K-2 Generate questions about individuals and groups who have shaped a significant historical change.				
His.3.3-5	Generate questions about individuals and groups who have shaped significant historical changes and continuities.			

)

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY)

LANGUAGE ARTS: SPEAKING AND LISTENING (SL)

COMPREHENSION AND COLLABORATION

SL.1.2	Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.
SL.1.3	Ask and answer questions about what a speaker says in order to gather additional information or clarify something that is not understood.
SL.2.2	Recount or describe key ideas or details from a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.
SL.2.3	Ask and answer questions about what a speaker says in order to clarify comprehension, gather additional information, or deepen understanding of a topic or issue.

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TIMELINE OF LIFE

SKILLS INVENTORY

Lower Elementary

Understands the history of life on earth and the variety of organisms that existed on land and in the water.

Upper Elementary

Understands that some organisms are no longer found on earth and that fossils provide evidence of different types of organisms and their environments.

MONTESSORI LESSONS	PURPOSES
INITIAL SERIES	
Introduction	 To illustrate the history of life on our planet from tiny organisms to plants, insects, animals, and humans. To emphasize that human beings have not always existed on earth.
The Blank Timeline of Life	 For the children to explore their own knowledge of the timeline.
The Timeline of Life: Further Details	 To discover details on aspects of the timeline. To study their own interests and gather information based on their own exploration.
Following up The Timeline of Life	 To discover details on aspects of the timeline. To further study their own interests and gather information based on their own exploration.

MIDDLE SERIES		
In addition to previous vocabulary:adaptationbehaviorcharacteristiccopedistributionEarthenvironmentextinctfoodfossilfunction (noun)marinenatureorganismsurviveCognitive Verbsanalyzeconstructdefenddependinterpretinvolveobtainprovide		

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ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

INITIAL SERIES

Students will be asked to demonstrate understanding that:

• There are many different kinds of living things in any area, and they exist in different places on land and in water. (2-LS4-1)

MIDDLE SERIES

Students will be asked to demonstrate understanding that:

- Some kinds of plants and animals that once lived on Earth are no longer found anywhere. (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)
- For any particular environment, some kinds of organisms survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all. (3-LS4-3)

NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS

LIFE SCIENCE (LS)

ECOSYSTEMS: INTERACTIONS, ENERGY, AND DYNAMICS

3-LS2-1	Construct an argument that some animals form groups that help members survive.			
BIOLOGICAL EVOLUTION: UNITY AND DIVERSITY				
2-LS4-1	Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.			
3-LS4-1	3-LS4-1 Analyze and interpret data from fossils to provide evidence of the organisms and the environments in which they lived long ago.			
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.			

NOTES

BOTANY AND ZOOLOGY

BOTANY

SKILLS INVENTORY

Lower Elementary

Identifies the parts of plants (root, stem, leaf, flower, fruit) and how they help the plant survive and grow. Understands the needs of plants including different types of pollination.

Upper Elementary

Identifies the internal and external structures of plants and how they serve the functions of growth, survival, behavior, and reproduction.

MONTESSORI LESSONS	PURPOSES
INITIAL SERIES	
 The Plant The Story of the Plant Plants Parts of a Plant Needs of Plants I Needs of Plants II 	 To give the child an appreciation of the work that plants do. To give the child a broad picture of botany before filling in details in future key lessons. To familiarize the child with the major parts of a plant: roots, stems, leaves. To understand that plants have certain fundamental needs. To introduce the child implicitly to basic principles of scientific experimentation. Provide children an experience linking chemistry and botany.
 The Leaf The Leaf as a Food Factory Plants Grow Toward Light Leaves of a Plant Arrange Themselves to Get the Light Leaves of Plants Sometimes Need Help to Reach the Light Plants Release Oxygen Leaves Get Rid of Extra Water 	 To introduce the idea that the leaf makes food for the plant. Provide opportunity for children to observe together the effects of light on a growing plant and introduce the word "phototropism". To emphasize that leaves need light in order to make food for the plant. To discover that some plants have developed clever methods to reach the light. This is a key piece of information the children need to appreciate the interdependence of plants and animals. To observe that plants release water into the atmosphere.

continues

MONTESSORI LESSONS	PURPOSES	
 The Root Roots Take up Water for the Plant Roots Secure Plants to the Ground Roots Keep Soil in Place Leaves and Plants Shape Help the Roots 	 To see that it's the roots that provide water for the plant. To see that the roots actively grow towards water. Provide visual experiences for the child regarding plant structures and functions. To understand the role plants play in preventing erosion. We invite the children to explore and extrapolate structure and function in plants. 	
 The Stem Stems Hold the Leaves up to the Light Stems Carry Water from the Roots and Food from the Leaves Stems Extend into the Leaves as Veins Geotropism The plant and its Reproductive Parts 	 To add to the child's understanding of structures and functions in the parts of plants. Recognize that the stem provides a transport system for the plants. To extend the idea that the stem provides a transport system for the plants into the leaves. To observe geotropism in action. 	
 The Flower The Story of the Flower Parts of the Flower How Plants Ensure Pollination Position of the Ovary 	 To help the child understand the importance of pollination and to recognize some of the methods of pollination used by plants. To give the child technical terminology for the parts of a flower in order to facilitate further study. To introduce pollination methods adopted by plants. 	
The Fruit Parts of the Fruit Function of the Fruit 	 To give the child technical terminology for the fruit in order to facilitate further investigation. To expand the child's understanding of the natural world. 	
The SeedThe Story of the SeedParts of the SeedSeed Dispersal	 To help build an understanding of the function of a seed. To give the child technical terminology for the seed in order to facilitate further investigation. To expand the child's understanding of variety in nature. 	
MIDDLE SERIES		
CLASSIFICATION OF PLANTS		
 The Leaf External Parts of the Leaf Venation Patterns Arrangement of Leaves on the Stem Attachment of Leaf to Stem Simple and Compound leaves Leaf Margins Leaf Shapes Specialized Leaves 	• These presentations are keys for further exploration of the leaf, rather than an end in themselves.	

BOTANY AND ZOOLOGY

MONTESSORI LESSONS	PURPOSES	
The RootParts of the Root TipTypes of Root SystemsSpecialized Roots	• These presentations are keys for further exploration of the root, rather than an end in themselves.	
 The Stem Parts of a Woody Stem Buds on the Stem Attachment of Buds on a Stem Types of Stems Types of Aerial Stems Specialized Stems 	• These presentations are keys for further exploration of the stem, rather than an end in themselves.	
 The Flower Complete and Incomplete Flowers Perfect and Imperfect Flowers Variations in the Parts of the Flower Position of the Ovary 	• These presentations are keys for further exploration of the flower, rather than an end in themselves.	
 The Fruit Variations in the Ovary Fleshy and Dry Fruits Types of Dry Fruits Types of Fleshy Fruits 	• These presentations are keys for further exploration of the fruit, rather than an end in themselves.	
The Seed Monocotyledons and Dicotyledons 	• These presentations are keys for further exploration of the seed, rather than an end in themselves.	
LATER SERIES		
 Plant Classification Introduction to the Plant Classification System Text and Picture Cards Classification of Plants Using the Plant Classification Material Dichotomous Key 	 To introduce children to the plant classification material and to the concept of classification of organisms. 	

BOTANY AND ZOOLOGY

ASSESSMENT VOCABULARY				
INITIAL SERIES		MIDDLE SERIES		LATER SERIES
account adult area behavior branch design (noun) detect disperse diversity of life equipment exact exist external feature flower food fruit function (noun) grow habitat intruder land leaf life light living thing mimic offspring organism parent physical model pollinate pollination	recognizable representation response root seed shell sketch stabilize stem structure sunlight survival survive thorn variety Cognitive Verbs communicate conduct convey depend design determine develop engage plan protect respond share solve vary	In addition to previous advantage camouflage characteristic color coloration death distribution diverse environment environmental essential existence function (verb) growth inherit internal life cycle living memory perception petal physical characteristic plant process (verb) receptor reproduce	s vocabulary: reproduction resource sibling spatial specialized species stem store support temperature trait transfer (verb) transform unique variation Cognitive Verbs affect analyze cause change describe guide interpret provide receive support	In addition to previous vocabulary: material (noun) plant matter soil Cognitive Verbs acquire

BOTANY AND ZOOLOGY

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BOTANY AND ZOOLOGY

ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

INITIAL SERIES

Students will be asked to demonstrate understanding that:

- Plants have external parts. (1-LS1-1)
- Plants also have different parts (roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits) that help them survive and grow. (1-LS1-1)
- Adult plants can have young. (1-LS1-2)
- Plants respond to some external inputs. (1-LS1-1)
- Plants are very much, but not exactly, like their parents. (1- LS3-1)
- Individuals of the same kind of plant are recognizable as similar but can also vary in many ways. (1-LS3-1)
- Plants depend on water and light to grow. (2-LS2-1)
- Plants depend on animals for pollination or to move their seeds around. (2-LS2-2)
- There are many different kinds of plants in any area, and they exist in different places on land and in water. (2-LS4-1)

MIDDLE SERIES

Students will be asked to demonstrate understanding that:

- For any particular environment, some kinds of plants survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all. (3-LS4-3)
- Plant populations live in a variety of habitats, and change in those habitats affects the organisms living there. (3-LS4-4)
- Reproduction is essential to the continued existence of plants. (3-LS1-1)
- Plants have unique and diverse life cycles. (3-LS1-1)
- Many characteristics of plants are inherited from their parents. (3-LS3-1)
- Different plants vary in how they look and function because they have different inherited information. (3-LS3-1)
- The environment also affects the traits that a plant develops. (3-LS3-2)
- Sometimes the differences in characteristics between individuals of the same species provide advantages in surviving and reproducing. (3-LS4-2)
- Plants have both internal and external structures that serve various functions in growth, survival, behavior, and reproduction. (4- LS1-1)

LATER SERIES

Students will be asked to demonstrate an understanding that:

• Plants acquire their material for growth chiefly from air and water. (5-LS1-1)

NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS

LIFE SCIENCE (LS)

FROM MOLECULES TO ORGANISMS: STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES

1-LS1-1	Use materials to design a solution to a human problem by mimicking how plants and/or animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs.			
1-LS1-2	Read texts and use media to determine patterns in behavior of parents and offspring that help offspring survive			
3-LS1-1	-1 Develop models to describe that organisms have unique and diverse life cycles but all have in common birth, growth, reproduction, and death.			
4-LS1-1	Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.			
4-LS1-2	Use a model to describe that animals receive different types of information through their senses, process the information in their brain, and respond to the information in different ways.			
5-LS1-1	S1-1 Support an argument that plants get the materials they need for growth chiefly from air and water.			
ECOSYSTEMS: INTERACTIONS, ENERGY, AND DYNAMICS				
2-LS2-1	Plan and conduct an investigation to determine if plants need sunlight and water to grow.			
2-LS2-2	-2 Develop a simple model that mimics the function of an animal in dispersing seeds or pollinating plants.			
HEREDIT	HEREDITY: INHERITANCE AND VARIATION OF TRAITS			
1-LS3-1	Make observations to construct an evidence-based account that young plants and animals are like, but not exactly like, their parents			
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.			
BIOLOGICAL EVOLUTION: UNITY AND DIVERSITY				
2-LS4-1	Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.			
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.			
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.			

BOTANY AND ZOOLOGY

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BOTANY AND ZOOLOGY

ZOOLOGY

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SKILLS INVENTORY

Lower Elementary

- Identifies how different animals use their body parts in different ways to see, hear, grasp objects, protect themselves, move from place to place, and seek, find, and take in food, water, and air. Understands that reproduction is essential to the continued existence of every kind of animal.
- Understands the impact that the environment has on animals and the impact that animals have upon their environments.

Upper Elementary

• Identifies the internal and external structures of animals that serve various functions in growth, survival, behavior, and reproduction. Understands the importance of the brain in processing information from different sense receptors and how animals use this information and memories to guide their actions.

MONTESSORI LESSONS	PURPOSES	
INITIAL SERIES		
Animal StoriesAmerican GoldfinchWhat Do Animals Eat?	 To help the child appreciate and understand animals of their local habitat. To provide an opportunity for interesting reading. To realize that different animals eat different foods. Indirect preparation for studying ecology. 	
Question and Answer Game Study of a Single Animal Study of a Single Question 	 To help the children organize their informal knowledge about animals. To introduce the idea that animals have common needs but different ways of meeting them. 	
MIDDLE SERIES		
 Body Functions of Vertebrates Introduction to the Five Classes Learning Characteristics: Complete Text Learning Characteristics: Incomplete Text Comparing Classes Naming the Body Functions 	 To support the child's understanding of structures and functions of animals' body parts. Recognize that there are different groups of animals, and they differ in how their bodies are organized to meet their needs. For children to recognize that most body functions vary from class to class, but all vertebrates have a backbone. To provide inspiration for further research into vertebrates. 	

continues

MONTESSORI LESSONS PURPOSES LATER SERIES

Classification of Animals

- Introduction to Animal Classification
- Introduction to Text and Picture Cards
- Classification of Animals Using Folders and Circles
- To introduce children to the animal classification material and to the concept of classification of organisms.

ASSESSMENT VOCABULARY

INITIAL SERIES

MIDDLE SERIES

mimic account adult offspring area organism behavior parent body recognizable breed response comfort shell stabilize detect diversity of life structure equipment survival exact survive exist variety external **Cognitive Verbs** feature compare food construct grasp convey grow design growth determine habitat engage hear protect human respond intruder share land solve vary living thing material (noun)

life

advantage birth brain camouflage characteristic cope death distribution diverse environment environmental essential existence function (noun) function (verb) heart inherit inheritance interaction internal life cycle light living lung mate memory perception

In addition to previous vocabulary: physical characteristic predator process (verb) receptor reflect reproduce reproduction resource sense receptor senses sensory sibling skin spatial specialized species stomach store stunt support surface temperature trait transfer (verb) transform unique variation

Cognitive Verbs affect allow analyze cause change defend describe develop

guide

learn

influence

interpret involve obtain provide receive support

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BOTANY AND ZOOLOGY

ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

INITIAL SERIES

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Students will be asked to demonstrate understanding that:

- All animals have external parts. (1-LS1-2)
- Different animals use their body parts in different ways to see, hear, grasp objects, protect themselves, move from place to place, and seek, find, and take in food, water, and air. (1-LS1-1)
- Adult animals can have young. (1-LS1-2)
- In many kinds of animals, parents and the offspring themselves engage in behaviors that help the offspring to survive. (1-LS1-2)
- Animals have body parts that capture and convey different kinds of information needed for growth and survival. (1-LS1-1)
- Animals respond to these inputs for growth and survival with behaviors that help them survive. (1-LS1-1)
- Young animals are very much, but not exactly, like their parents. (1-LS3-1)
- There are many different kinds of animals in any area, and they exist in different places on land and in water. (2-LS4-1)

MIDDLE SERIES

Students will be asked to demonstrate understanding that:

- Being part of a group helps animals obtain food, defend themselves, and cope with changes. (3-LS2-1)
- Animal groups may serve different functions and vary dramatically in size. (3-LS2-1)
- For any particular environment, some kinds of animals survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all. (3-LS4-3)
- Animal populations live in a variety of habitats, and change in those habitats affects the animals living there. (3-LS4-4)
- Reproduction is essential to the continued existence of every kind of animal. (3-LS1-1)
- Animals have unique and diverse life cycles. (3-LS1-1)
- Many characteristics of animals are inherited from their parents. (3-LS3-1)
- Other characteristics result from individual animals' interactions with the environment, which can range from diet to learning. (3- LS3-2)
- Many characteristics of animals involve both inheritance and environment. (3-LS3-2)
- An object can be seen when light reflected from its surface enters the eyes. (4-PS4-2)
- Animals have both internal and external structures that serve various functions in growth, survival, behavior, and reproduction. (4-LS1-1)
- Different sense receptors are specialized for particular kinds of information, which may be then processed by the animal's brain. (4-LS1-2)
- Animals are able to use their perceptions and memories to guide their actions. (4-LS1-2)

NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS

LIFE SCIENCE (LS)

FROM MOLECULES TO ORGANISMS: STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES

1-LS1-1	Use materials to design a solution to a human problem by mimicking how plants and/or animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs.
1-LS1-2	Read texts and use media to determine patterns in behavior of parents and offspring that help offspring survive
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.
4-LS1-1	Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.
4-LS1-2	Use a model to describe that animals receive different types of information through their

senses, process the information in their brain, and respond to the information in different ways.

ECOSYSTEMS: INTERACTIONS, ENERGY, AND DYNAMICS

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

HEREDITY: INHERITANCE AND VARIATION OF TRAITS .

1-LS3-1	Make observations to construct an evidence-based account that young plants and animals are
	like, but not exactly like, their parents

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.

3-LS3-2 Use evidence to support the explanation that traits can be influenced by the environment.

BIOLOGICAL EVOLUTION: UNITY AND DIVERSITY

2-LS4-1	LS4-1 Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different hab	
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.	
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.	
4-PS4-2	Develop a model to describe that light reflecting from objects and entering the eye allows objects to be seen	

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BOTANY AND ZOOLOGY

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NOTES

BOTANY AND ZOOLOGY

CHAPTER 3 THE HUMAN BODY

THE HUMAN BODY

SKILLS INVENTORY

Lower Elementary

- Identifies how humans use their body parts in different ways to see, hear, grasp objects, protect themselves, move from place to place, and seek, find, and take in food, water, and air.
- Understands that humans have body parts that capture and convey different kinds of information needed for growth and survival including that reproduction is essential to the continued existence of humans.

Upper Elementary

• Identifies the internal and external structures of humans that serve various functions in growth, survival, behavior, and reproduction.

MONTESSORI LESSONS	PURPOSES
MIDDLE SERIES	
 The Human Body The Great River Humans are Mammals Cells Senses Sight Hearing Smell Taste Touch Body Systems Digestive system Circulatory system Respiratory system Muscular system Nervous system 	 To appreciate how diligently the individual organs of the body work to keep us alive. To recognize that human beings are mammals. To bring attention to the fact that living things are composed of cells. To spark interest in the senses. To inspire research into the various systems of the human body. To spark interest in how the systems of the human body work.

ASSESSMENT VOCABULARY				
INITIAL SERIES		MIDDLE SERIES		
account Cognitive Verbs		In addition to previous	In addition to previous vocabulary:	
adult	construct	birth	Cognitive Verbs	
behavior	convey	brain	affect	
body	design	characteristic	allow	
branch	determine	color	analyze	
breed	engage	death	describe	
comfort	protect	diverse	develop	
detect	respond	environment	influence	
equipment	share	essential	interpret	
exact	solve	exist	involve	
external	vary	existence	learn	
feature		function (noun)	provide	
food		function (verb)	support	
grasp		heart		
grow		inherit		
growth		inheritance		
hear		interaction		
human		internal		
intruder		life		
material (noun)		life cycle		
mimic		light		
offspring		lung		
organism		reflect		
parent		reproduction		
recognizable		sibling		
response		skin		
shell		stomach		
stabilize		stunt		
structure		support		
survival		surface		
survive		trait		
		unique		
		variation		

ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

INITIAL SERIES

Students will be asked to demonstrate understanding that:

- Humans have external parts. (1-LS1-1)
- Humans use their body parts in different ways to see, hear, grasp objects, protect themselves, move from place to place, and seek, find, and take in food, water, and air. (1-LS1-1)
- Humans have body parts that capture and convey different kinds of information needed for growth and survival. (1-LS1-1)
- Humans can have young. (1-LS1-2)
- Parents engage in behaviors that help the offspring to survive. (1-LS1-2)
- Young humans are very much, but not exactly, like their parents. (1-LS3-1)

MIDDLE SERIES

Students will be asked to demonstrate understanding that:

- Reproduction is essential to the continued existence of humans. (3-LS1-1)
- Many characteristics are inherited from their parents. (3-LS3-1)
- Many characteristics involve both inheritance and environment. (3-LS3-2)
- An object can be seen when light reflected from its surface enters the eyes. (4-PS4-2)

FROM MOLECULES TO ORGANISMS: STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES

• Humans have both internal and external structures that serve various functions in growth, survival, behavior, and reproduction. (4-LS1-1)

NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS

LIFE SCIENCE (LS)

incontin			
1-LS1-1	Use materials to design a solution to a human problem by mimicking how plants and/or animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs.		
1-LS1-2	1-2 Read texts and use media to determine patterns in behavior of parents and offspring that help offspring survive		
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.		
4-LS1-1	Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.		

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THE HUMAN BODY

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NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS			
HEREDI	HEREDITY: INHERITANCE AND VARIATION OF TRAITS		
1-LS3-1	1-LS3-1 Make observations to construct an evidence-based account that young plants and animals are like, but not exactly like, their parents.		
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.		
3-LS3-2	3-LS3-2 Use evidence to support the explanation that traits can be influenced by the environment.		
PHYSICAL SCIENCE (PS)			
WAVES AND THEIR APPLICATIONS IN TECHNOLOGIES FOR INFORMATION TRANSFER			
4-PS4-2	Develop a model to describe that light reflecting from objects and entering the eye allows objects to be seen.		

NOTES

ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION

ECOLOGY

SKILLS INVENTORY

Upper Elementary

Understands that a healthy ecosystem is one in which multiple types of different species are able to meet their needs in a stable web of life in which matter cycles between the air and soil and among plants, animals, and microbes as organisms live and die.

MONTESSORI LESSONS	PURPOSES
LATER SERIES	
From Biosphere to Atoms	 To gain a framework for understanding life at levels from the biosphere to the atom. Understanding and organization of all subsequent lessons in biology.
Biomes	 To learn the characteristics of a biome and pursue further study about biomes. Preparation for observations and work with the child's own biome.
Ecosystems: Trophic Levels and Food Chains	 To learn about trophic levels and the way they affect causality in the food chain. Review of food chains and preparation for ecosystems study.
Matter Cycles	To learn that matter cycles in an ecosystem.Review of cycle of life, elements of life.
Energy Flows	 To learn about the energy transfer through the trophic levels of an ecosystem. To review and understand food chains and the difference between matter and energy.
Communities: Niches and Keystone Species	• To learn about niches in a community of living things.
Communities through Time: Succession	• To learn the role of disturbances and time in a community.

continues

MONTESSORI LESSONS	PURPOSES
Communities: Interactions between Species	• To learn how different species interact with one another.
Populations: Snowy Owls and Lemmings	 To understand how snowy owls and lemmings interact at the population level. To understand the relationships between populations within an ecosystem, and the role of evolution in these relationships.
Organisms: A Mouse and a Mutation	 To learn about species adaptations in the context of the theory of evolution. To understand the extent to which species exist in balance within the larger spheres of life.
The Ocean Ecosystem	 To introduce the children to the operation of a simple ecosystem. To introduce the children to a method for diagramming an ecosystem. To inspire the children to research ecosystems further.
Chart of Interdependencies	 To help develop an understanding of the interrelationships that exist between all things. To appreciate the fragile balance between all the things in the world. To inspire a view of the world that is ecologically aware and sensitive, and to encourage a sense of responsibility toward the natural world.

ASSESSMENT VOCABULARY

LATER SERIES

body repair break down chemical process cycle (verb) decompose decomposer decomposition diagram earth ecosystem environment flow chart	health life liquid material (noun) matter microbe movement operate organism plant plant plant part	species stable sun survive waste matter Cognitive Verbs change describe develop introduce maintain

ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

LATER SERIES

Students will be asked to demonstrate understanding that:

- The energy released [from] food was once energy from the sun that was captured by plants in the chemical process that forms plant matter (from air and water). (5-PS3-1)
- The food of almost any kind of animal can be traced back to plants. (5-LS2-1)
- Organisms are related in food webs in which some animals eat plants for food and other animals eat the animals that eat plants. (5-LS2-1)
- Some organisms, such as fungi and bacteria, break down dead organisms (both plants or plants parts and animals) and therefore operate as "decomposers." (5-LS2-1)
- Decomposition eventually restores (recycles) some materials back to the soil. (5-LS2-1)
- Organisms can survive only in environments in which their particular needs are met. (5-LS2-1)
- A healthy ecosystem is one in which multiple species of different types are each able to meet their needs in a relatively stable web of life. (5-LS2-1)
- Newly introduced species can damage the balance of an ecosystem. (5-LS2-1)
- Matter cycles between the air and soil and among plants, animals, and microbes as these organisms live and die. (5-LS2-1)
- Organisms obtain gasses, and water, from the environment, and release waste matter (gas, liquid, or solid) back into the environment. (5-LS2-1)

ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION

NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS

LIFE SCIENCE (LS)

ECOSYSTEMS: INTERACTIONS, ENERGY, AND DYNAMICS

5-LS2-1 Develop a model to describe the movement of matter among plants, animals, decomposers, and the environment.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE (PS)

ENERGY

5-PS3-1	Use models to describe that energy in animals' food (used for body repair, growth, motion,
	and to maintain body warmth) was once energy from the sun.

NOTES

EVOLUTION

SKILLS INVENTORY

Upper Elementary

Understands that when an environment changes (temperature, availability of resources) some organisms survive and reproduce, others move to new locations, others move into the transformed environment, and some do not survive, while recognizing that the differences in characteristics between individuals of the same species provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing.

MONTESSORI LESSONS	PURPOSES
LATER SERIES	
Darwin's Theory	To understand Darwin's Theory.To learn about the processes of science and the logical foundation of the theory of evolution.
Mechanisms of Evolution	To understand how evolution works.To learn about species adaptations in the context of the theory of evolution.
Building the Tree of Life	 To learn the sequence of evolution and overall structure of the organization of life. Preparation for study of the Tree of Life and of cladograms (branching diagrams); to conceptualize the overall categories of life.
The First Mammals	To learn how mammals evolved.To understand how many factors affected the evolution of mammals.
The End of the Dinosaurs	To learn about the dramatic end to the dinosaurs and the creation of a niche for mammals.Reverence for life and an appreciation of the role of chance in the history of life.

ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION

INITIAL SERIES	MIDDLE SERIES	
area diversity of life exist habitat land life living thing plant variety Cognitive Verbs compare	In addition to previous vocabulary: adaptation advantage area camouflage characteristic coloration distribution Earth environment environmental extinct food fossil function (noun) function (noun) function (verb) grow human inherit inheritance interaction living marine mate nature offspring organism parent physical characteristic plant	reproduce resource sibling species stunt support survive temperature thorn trait transform variation Cognitive Verbs affect analyze cause change construct depend develop influence interpret involve learn provide share support

ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION

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ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

MIDDLE SERIES

Students will be asked to demonstrate understanding that:

- Many characteristics of organisms are inherited from their parents. (3-LS3-1)
- Many characteristics result from individuals' interactions with the environment, which can range from diet to learning. (3- LS3-2)
- Many characteristics involve both inheritance and environment. (3- LS3-2)
- Different organisms vary in how they look and function because they have different inherited information. (3-LS3-1)
- The environment affects the traits that an organism develops. (3-LS3-2)
- There are many different kinds of living things in any area, and they exist in different places on land and in water. (2-LS4-1)
- Some kinds of plants and animals that once lived on Earth are no longer found anywhere. (3-LS4-1)
- Fossils provide evidence about the types of organisms that lived long ago. (3-LS4-1)
- Fossils provide evidence about the nature of their environments. (3-LS4-1)
- The differences in characteristics between individuals of the same species provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing. (3-LS4-2)
- For any particular environment, some kinds of organisms survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all. (3-LS4-3)
- Populations live in a variety of habitats, and change in those habitats affects the organisms living there. (3-LS4-4)
- 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. (3-LS4-4)

NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS

LIFE SCIENCE (LS)

HEREDITY: INHERITANCE AND VARIATION OF TRAITS

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.
3-LS3-2	Use evidence to support the explanation that traits can be influenced by the environment.

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ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION

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NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS

BIOLOGICAL EVOLUTION: UNITY AND DIVERSITY

2-LS4-1	Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.
3-LS4-1	Analyze and interpret data from fossils to provide evidence of the organisms and the environments in which they lived long ago.
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.
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.
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.

NOTES

APPENDIX

ENGINEERING, TECHNOLOGY, AND APPLICATIONS OF SCIENCE

SKILLS INVENTORY

Engages in scientific inquiry to build, deepen, and apply knowledge of science including understanding what scientists do to investigate the natural world and what engineers do to design and build systems.

MONTESSORI LESSONS PURPOSES

These purposes are integrated into Montessori lessons across the science curriculum.

Life Science	 To use a model to represent relationships in the natural world. To use observations to describe patterns in the natural world in order to answer scientific questions. To construct an argument with evidence to support a claim. To communicate solutions with others in oral and/or written forms. To use models and/or drawings that provide detail about scientific ideas.
Physical Science	 To plan and conduct an investigation in collaboration with peers. To analyze data from tests of an object or tool to determine if it works as intended.
Earth Science	 To use observations to describe patterns in the natural world in order to answer scientific questions. To construct an argument with evidence to support a claim.

INITIAL SERIES	MIDDLE AND LATER SER	les
analyze	In addition to previous vocabulary:	
communicate	account	Cognitive Verbs
compare	aspect	carry out
convey	available	communicate
design (noun)	best	compare
develop	control (variable)	consider
engineering	controlled	control
illustrate	cost	determine
optimize	criteria	develop
physical model	design problem	generate
representation	design process	identify
situation	difficulty	improve
sketch	element	investigate
solve	failure point	involve
test	feature	lead
Cognitive Verbs	improved	limit
approach	limited	optimize
ask	material (noun)	plan
change	peers	propose
create	perform	share
define	proposal	suggest
design	prototype	test
engineer	resource	
gather	success	
solve		
understand		

ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

INITIAL SERIES

Students will be asked to demonstrate understanding that:

Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems

- A situation that people want to change or create can be approached as a problem to be solved through engineering. (K-2-ETS1-1)
- Asking questions, making observations, and gathering information are helpful in thinking about problems. (K-2-ETS1-1)
- Before beginning to design a solution, it is important to clearly understand the problem. (K-2-ETS1-1)

Developing Possible Solutions

• Designs can be conveyed through sketches, drawings, or physical models. These representations are useful in communicating ideas for a problem's solutions to other people. (K-2-ETS1-2)

Optimizing the Design Solution

• Because there is always more than one possible solution to a problem, it is useful to compare and test designs. (K-2-ETS1-3)

Students will be asked to:

Asking Questions and Defining Problems

- Ask questions based on observations to find more information about the natural and/or designed world. (K-2-ETS1-1)
- Define a simple problem that can be solved through the development of a new or improved object or tool. (K-2-ETS1-1)

Developing and Using Models

• Develop a simple model based on evidence to represent a proposed object or tool. (K-2-ETS1-2)

Analyzing and Interpreting Data

• Analyze data from tests of an object or tool to determine if it works as intended. (K-2-ETS1-3)

MIDDLE AND LATER SERIES

Students will be asked to demonstrate understanding that:

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). (3-5-ETS1-1)
- 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)

Developing Possible Solutions

- Research on a problem should be carried out before beginning to design a solution. (3-5-ETS1-2)
- 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)

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)

NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS

ENGINEERING, TECHNOLOGY AND APPLICATIONS OF SCIENCE (ETS)

ENGINEERING DESIGN

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

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COLLEGE, CAREER AND CIVIC LIFE (C3) FRAMEWORK FOR STATE SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

HISTORY (D2.HIS)

CHANGE, CONTINUITY AND CONTEXT

His.3.K-2	Generate questions about individuals and groups who have shaped a significant historical change.	Foundations The Story of Coming of Life
His.3.3-5	Generate questions about individuals and groups who have shaped significant historical changes and continuities.	

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS STRANDS, DIVISIONS, AND STANDARDS CCSS.ELA.LITERACY

MONTESSORI CHAPTERS AND SECTIONS

SPEAKING AND LISTENING (SL)

COMPREHENSION AND COLLABORATION

SL.1.2	Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.	FoundationsGreat Story: The Coming of Life
SL.2.2	Recount or describe key ideas or details from a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.	
SL.1.3	Ask and answer questions about what a speaker says in order to gather additional information or clarify something that is not understood.	
SL.2.3	Ask and answer questions about what a speaker says in order to clarify comprehension, gather additional information, or deepen understanding of a topic or issue.	

NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS

MONTESSORI CHAPTERS AND SECTIONS

LIFE SCIENCE (LS)

FROM M	OLECULES TO ORGANISMS: STRUCTURES AN	ID PROCESSES
1-LS1-1	Use materials to design a solution to a human problem by mimicking how plants and/or animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs.	 Botany and Zoology Botany Zoology The Human Body
4-LS1-1	Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.	
4-LS1-2	Use a model to describe that animals receive different types of information through their senses, process the information in their brain, and respond to the information in different ways.	Botany and ZoologyBotanyZoology
5-LS1-1	Support an argument that plants get the materials they need for growth chiefly from air and water.	
ECOSYST	TEMS: INTERACTIONS, ENERGY, AND DYNAM	1ICS
ECOSYST 2-LS2-1	Plan and conduct an investigation to determine if plants need sunlight and water to grow.	1ICS Botany and Zoology • Botany
	Plan and conduct an investigation to determine if	Botany and Zoology
2-LS2-1	Plan and conduct an investigation to determine if plants need sunlight and water to grow. Develop a simple model that mimics the function of	Botany and Zoology
2-LS2-1 2-LS2-2	 Plan and conduct an investigation to determine if plants need sunlight and water to grow. Develop a simple model that mimics the function of an animal in dispersing seeds or pollinating plants. Construct an argument that some animals form 	Botany and Zoology Botany Foundations

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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.	 Botany and Zoology Botany Zoology The Human Body
		Ecology and EvolutionEvolution
3-LS3-2	Use evidence to support the explanation that traits can be influenced by the environment.	Botany and ZoologyZoologyThe Human Body
		Ecology and Evolution Evolution
FROM M	OLECULES TO ORGANISMS: STRUCTURES AN	ND PROCESSES
2-LS4-1	Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.	Foundations The Timeline of Life
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3-LS4-1	Analyze and interpret data from fossils to provide evidence of the organisms and the environments in which they lived long ago.	Foundations The Timeline of Life
		Ecology and Evolution Evolution

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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.	 Botany and Zoology Botany Zoology Ecology and Evolution Evolution 		
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.	 Foundations The Timeline of Life Ecology and Evolution Evolution 		
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.	 Botany and Zoology Botany Zoology Ecology and Evolution Evolution 		
PHYSICAL SCIENCE (PS)				
ENERGY				
5-PS3-1	Use models to describe that energy in animals' food (used for body repair, growth, motion, and to maintain body warmth) was once energy from the sun.			

MONTESSORI TO STANDARDS INDEX

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