



Course Description
Grades 3-5
Science Readers

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Grade 3 Science Readers

Scientific Investigation and Reasoning

Reader Name	Description	Science TEKS	ELA TEKS	No. of Reading Levels
Science is Empirical	An explanation about how scientists use their senses and tools to make observations which are the empirical evidence they can use to learn more about the natural world.	3.3(A) 3.4	3.3(B), 3.6(A, F, G), 3.9(D)i, ii, iii	1
Measurements	The importance of using standard units of measurement.	3.2 (B) 4.2 (B)	4.6 (A,B,C) 4.9(D) i,ii,iii	1

Matter and Energy

Reader Name	Description	Science TEKS	ELA TEKS	No. of Reading Levels
Foggy Day	An introduction to the processes of condensation and evaporation, and their roles in the formation of dew, fog, and the water cycle.	3.5(C), 3.3(B)	3.6(I), 3.7(D), 3.8(A,B)	3
A Bridge of Ice	The changing of liquid water to solid ice of a lake makes all the difference between survival and scarcity for a town in Canada.	3.5(C)	3.13(C), 3.9(D)iii (2019)	1
Water in its Various Forms	Water's unique property of existing in all three states of matter, with some examples.	3.5(C)	3.13(C), 3.9(D)iii (2019)	1
Changes in Matter	An explanation of changes of state in matter as seen in simple examples, such as making of popcorn and melting of ice cream.	3.5(C)	3.9(D)iii 3.13(C)	2
Water in its Various States	A look at the physical properties of the different states of matter using water's various forms as example.	3.5(B)	3.13(A), 3.6(G) (2019)	2

Water and the Three States of Matter	A study of the three states of matter in context of water occurring in nature, and the phenomena of evaporation and condensation	3.5(C)	3.13(C), 3.9(D)(i) (2019)	2
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Force, Motion, and Energy

Reader Name	Description	Science TEKS	ELA TEKS	No. of Reading Levels
Heat and Light	A canyon hike is used to introduce students to light and heat as forms of energy that we receive from the Sun and other sources like the light bulb.	3.6(A), 3.8(B)	3.6(A); 3.7(A,G)	1
Earth's Energy Budget	Using the analogy of adobe walls, the text describes Earth's energy budget, the process by which Earth absorbs heat through its atmosphere during day and releases it back out into space at night.	3.6 (A) 3.8 (B)	3.3 (B) 3.6 (A,B,C)	1
Pushes and Pulls	An introduction to energy, force and motion through examples where pushes and pulls are used to move small and large objects.	3.6 (A) 3.6 (B)	3.6 (G) 3.9 (D)	3
Force, Motion and Baseball	Using examples from a baseball game, the text explains how forces can cause motion, change the direction of motion, and stop motion.	3.6 (B)	3.6 (G) 3.7(C) 3.9 (D) i,ii,iii 3.10 (B)	3
Gravity on the Road	A drive through the mountains explains how a motor vehicle's engine applies force to overcome gravity on the way up the hill, and how the force of friction is used to slow down on the way down.	3.6 (C)	3.6 (A) 3.7(A,G)	1
Listening for Whales	Using the parallel examples of whale sounds and SONAR, the text explains how sound is produced and how it can travel through air and water.	3.6 (A)	3.13(C), 3.9(D)iii (2019)	1

Invisible forces- Pushes and Pulls	A comparison of the forces of push and pull with gravity and magnetism as examples for each.	3.6(B)	3.6(E) 3.77(C) 3.9(D)i	3
Gravity	What is gravity, how it is useful to us, and what it would be like without gravity	3.6(B)	3.6(F, G, H) 3.9(D)ii	3
Magnets	The properties of magnets and how they used	3.6(B)	3.6(H); 3.7(D); 3.9(D)i,ii,iii; 3.10(C)	3
A day at the Beach	Jessie's day at the beach and her observations about the Sun, wind, and water.	3.6(A) 3.8(B)	3.9, 3.9(D) (2019)	3
Pushes and Pulls – Changes in Motion	Examples of pushes and pulls in everyday life, and how much force is used in some actions.	3.6(B)	3.3(B); 3.6 (E), (F), (G)	3
Forms of Energy	A second person narrative of the different forms of energy experienced on a typical school day.	3.6 (A)	3.13 (A); 3.6 (G)	3

Earth and Space

Reader Name	Description	Science TEKS	ELA TEKS	No. of Reading Levels
Our Shining Star	The text describes the Sun and highlights its importance to life on Earth. It explains how scientists use events such as the solar eclipse to learn more about our Sun.	3.8(B)	3.6(C), 3.7(D), 3.9(D) i,ii,iii 3.10(A)	1
Telescope - One very Large Telescope	A description of the Very Large Telescope (VLT) at Cerro Parana in the middle of Atacama Desert in Northern Chile, and why scientists studying the sky want to come here.	3.8(B), 3.3(C)	3.6(F), 3.7(E, F)	1
Tsunami	A brief introduction to tsunamis and the damage they can cause.	3.7 (B)	3.12 3.9 (D)	3
Constellation	A brief introduction of what constellations are with Orion as an example.	3.8(B)	3.13(A) 3.6(G)	1

Erosion – Soil on the Move	The text brings out the importance of soil as a natural resource that needs to be protected. It explains how soil is created by a slow process called weathering and how certain events or human activities can impact erosion.	4.7(B), 3.7(A)	4.6(A), 4.9(D)i	1
Changing Weather	An insight into how and why weather can change quickly.	3.3(C), 3.8(A)	3.13(B), 3.6(F) (2019)	1
Rocks and Soil	The definition, types, and examples of rocks and soil, and their differences.	3.7(A), 3.9(A)	3.13(A), 3.6 (G) (2019)	1

Organisms and Environment

Reader Name	Description	Science TEKS	ELA TEKS	No. of Reading Levels
The Long Journey of the Monarch	A description of the monarch butterfly's migration from north to south for winter and back north, following their food source. The text also describes metamorphosis.	3.9(C), 3.10(B)	3.6(F), 3.9(D) i, ii, iii, 3.10(A, B)	1
Adapted Trails of Animals and Plants	An explanation of how plants and animals have adapted traits that help them survive in their habitat	3.10 (A)	3.3(D) 3.9(D)i 3.10(A,B,C)	3
Coral Reefs and Ocean Diversity	An explanation of how coral reefs provide food and shelter to other creatures, protect the shoreline, and provide economic benefits. It highlights the importance of protecting the coral reefs.	3.9(A), 7.10(A), 8.11 (C)	3.9(D)i, ii, iii, 3.10(A, B, C)	2
Where Animals Live	How the parts of some animals help them live in their environment.	1.10 (A) 3.10(A)	2.6(E); 2.9(D)i	3
Life Cycles of Plants and Animals	A comparison of the life cycles of animals, insects and plants.	3.10 (B)	3.13 (B) 3.6(F)	1

Grade 4 Science Readers

Scientific Investigation and Reasoning

Reader Name	Description	Science TEKS	ELA TEKS	No. of Reading Levels
Science Tools	The text explains the importance of scientific tools used by scientists, such as telescopes to study space and microscopes to learn about objects that are too small to see.	4.4(A)	4.3(B), 4.6(A), 4.9(D)i, ii, iii, 4.9(E)i, ii, iii, 4.9(F)	1
Recycling: A process of Sorting	A brief explanation about the importance of recycling material such as paper, plastic, glass, and metal, and the benefits to the environment.	4.1(B)	4.11(C), 4.9.D.iii (2019)	1
Using Lab Apparatus	An introduction to the types of laboratory equipment, their importance in using them correctly and safely, and how they are used.	4.4(A) 5.4	4.11(A), 4.9(D)i (2019)	1
Lab Safety 1	Julie, Fernando, and Henry are a disaster waiting to happen; they do everything they are not supposed to do in a laboratory.	4.1(A) 5.1(A)	4.13(A), 4.7(C) (2019)	1
Lab Safety 2	The Do's and Do Not's while working in a laboratory.	4.1(A)	4.6(A), 4.7(D) (2019)	1
Measurements	The importance of using standard units of measurement	4.1(A)	4.6(A, B, C), 4.9(D)i,ii,iii	1
Who is a Scientist?	An introduction to the wonderful profession of being a scientist, who they are, and what they do.	4.3(C) 5.3(C)	4.3(B), 4.6(A, B, C), 4.9(D)	1
The Myth of the Scientific Method and Differences between an Experiment and Investigation	An explanation to help clear the many misconceptions and assumptions that people have of scientific exploration, whether it is an experiment or an investigation.	4.2 5.2	5. 11(B), 5.6(G) (2019)	1
Repeatable and Replicable	How replicability and repeatability ensure the credibility of an experiment using baseball stats collected over time as an analogy.	4.2(E) 5.2(E)	4.11(A), 4.9(D)i (2019)	1

Matter and Energy

Reader Name	Description	Science TEKS	ELA TEKS	No. of Reading Levels
How my Parents Torture me at Meals	Using the situation of a family at the breakfast table, the text explains the importance of using the correct units and tools to measure mass, volume, and other physical quantities.	4.5(A), 4.4(A)	4.3(B), 4.6(H), 4.9(D)i	1
The Blackbird	How Science and Engineering came together in the making of the legendary bomber plane, the SR-71 Blackbird.	4.5 (A), 4.3(C)	4.3(B), 4.6(A), 4.9(D), 4.10(A)	1
Physical Properties of Matte	Differentiating matter based on the different physical properties of matter.	4.4 (A), 4.5(A)	4.11(A), 4.9 (D) (i) 2019	2

Force, Motion and Energy

Reader Name	Description	Science TEKS	ELA TEKS	No. of Reading Levels
Eddie the Eagle and his fight against the Forces of Nature	Using the context of the ski jump of the Olympian, Eddie the Eagle, the text introduces students to the balanced and unbalanced forces that Eddie encounters including gravity, friction, wind resistance, and lift.	4.6D	4.3(B) 4.6 (F,G,H,I) 4.10 (A)	1
Friction Good or Evil	Everyday examples of how friction helps us in many ways as well as cases where it is not desired.	4.6D	4.11(A) 4.9(D)i	1
Electric Lighting: History and Function	The evolution of the light bulb, including the roles of insulators and conductors in circuits.	4.6(C)	4.7 4.6(F)	1
Air is to insulator as Copper is to Conductor	A look at the workings of a vacuum flask or thermos and how it uses the Science behind insulation and conduction to keep its contents hot or cold.	4.6(B) 5.5(A)	5.6(F,G) 5.7(F) 5.9(D)	1
Forms and Changes of Energy	Changes of one form of energy to another seen at home on any given day.	4.6 (A)	4.11(C) 4.9(D)iii	2

Earth and Space

Reader Name	Description	Science TEKS	ELA TEKS	No. of Reading Levels
Erosion: Soil on the Move	The text brings out the importance of soil as a natural resource that needs to be protected. It explains how soil is created by a slow process called weathering and how certain events or human activities can impact erosion.	4.7(B), 3.7(A)	4.6(A), 4.9(D)i	1
Sinkholes	The text explains how underground aquifers form and how they can lead to the formation of sinkholes.	4.6(D)	4.11(C), 4.9(D)iii (2019)	1
The Water Cycle: Simple or Complex?	An explanation of the complexity of the water cycle, how it affects human life, and the impact of human actions on the water cycle.	4.8(B) 4.3(B)	4.11(C), 4.9(D)iii (2019)	1

Hygrometer	An introduction to humidity and the different types of hygrometers scientists use to measure humidity.	4.8(A), 4.4	4.11(C), 4.9(D)iii (2019)	1
Glaciation and its Effects on Landscapes	The text explains how glaciers form, how they advance, and how they shape the landscape by grinding, and depositing debris.	4.7(B)	4.11(C), 4.9(D)iii (2019)	1
Grand Canyon	A brief introduction to the formation of the Grand Canyon.	4.7(B)	4.10	3
How Plants sense the Seasons?	How plants like the Christmas Cactus know the seasons by detecting changes in the length of daylight.	4.8 (C)	4.11(A) 4.9(D)i (2019)	1
Why is the Ocean Salty?	Seasoned with 'salty' idioms, the text explains the process of how salt enters the oceans.	4.7(B)	4.11(A) 4.9(D)i (2019)	1
Phases of the Moon	All about the Moon; its light, its phases, and what manned missions to the Moon taught us.	4.3(C) 4.8 (C)	4.11(A) 4.9(D) i	1
Types of Weathering	What weathering is, and examples of the two main types of weathering, mechanical and chemical weathering.	4.7(B)	4.11(A) 4.9(D) i	1
The Water Cycle	The different stages of the water cycle in more detail, including transpiration and runoff.	4.8(B)	4.11(C), 4.9(D)(iii) (2019)	2
Earth, Moon and Sun	The movements of Earth and Moon, their relative movements to each other and the Sun.	4.8(C), 5.8 (C)	4.11(C), 5.11(C), 4.9 (D)(iii) , 5.9(D)(iii) (2019)	3
Resources	The importance of conserving resources, and how alternative resources, such as solar power, can make a difference.	4.7 (C), 4.1 (B)	4.11(C), 4.9 (D) (iii)(2019)	3

Organisms and Environment

Reader Name	Description	Science TEKS	ELA TEKS	No. of Reading Levels
A Horse of Course	An explanation of how early animals such as the Eohippus gradually changed into the horse we know today, inheriting features or characteristics that helped them survive in their environment.	4.10(A), 4.10(B)	4.6(A), 4.9(D)i	1
Bears	The text describes how plants and animals such as bears are affected by seasons. It explains how they have structures and behaviors like hibernation and dormancy that help them survive cold winter temperatures.	4.10(A)	4.3(B), 4.6(A), 4.9(D)i	1
Aquatic Food Web	The text explains how energy flows through an aquatic food chain from the Sun to phytoplankton to zooplankton, and then to other organisms. It emphasizes the need to preserve these food webs.	4.9(A)	4.3(B), 4.6(D, E), 4.7(G), 4.9(D)i	1
Plants get hungry too!	The text introduces students to the process of photosynthesis. It explains how, unlike us, plants are producers and use water, air, and sunlight to make a kind of sugar, mostly in the leaves.	4.9(A), 4.10(A)	4.3(B); 4.6(G, H); 4.7(C); 4.9(D)l,ii; 4.10(A, B)	1
Instincts and Learned Behaviors	An introduction to instinctive and learned behaviors through the story of Jake, the dog. Apart from his instinctive behavior, Jake has learned skills with which he can help Kathy who cannot walk.	4.10(B)	4.3(B), 4.6(E, F), 4.10(A)	1
Energy Flow in the Environment	A second person narrative of how you share energy in a food chain along with the producers and other consumers.	4.9(B)	4.11(C), 4.9.D.iii	3

Grade 5 Science Readers

Scientific Investigation and Reasoning

Reader Name	Description	Science TEKS	ELA TEKS	No. of Reading Levels
Cold Fusion: A Case for replication	Students are introduced to the importance of replicability of Science experiments and how it played a role in the history of cold fusion experiments.	5.2E, 5.3(A)	5.3(B), 5.6(F), 5.7(G), 5.9(D)i	1
Variables	An investigation of a car's speed and independent, dependent, and control variables that affects it.	5.2 (A)	5.11(A), 5.7(D) (2019)	1
Using Lab Apparatus	An introduction to the types of laboratory equipment, their importance in using them correctly and safely, and how they are used.	5.4	4.11(A), 4.9(D)i (2019)	1
Creativity and Tentativeness	Twins Mary and Sherry conduct an investigation on their wrapped birthday presents to figure out what may be inside them.	5.2(C), 5.2(D)	5.6(E, F), 5.10 (A, B, C, D, E, F)	1
Hypothesis Testing	An explanation of what constitutes a hypothesis, it's related vocabulary, and how scientists go about testing hypotheses.	5.2(B)	5.11, 5.7(C) (2019)	1
Lab Safety 1	Julie, Fernando, and Henry are a disaster waiting to happen; they do everything they are not supposed to do in a laboratory.	5.1(A)	4.13(A), 4.7(C) (2019)	1
Lab Safety 2	The Do's and Do Not's while working in a laboratory.	5.1 (A)	4.6(A), 4.7(D) (2019)	1
Constructing Scientific Understandings	Dotti's and John's Physical Science teacher, Mr Hansen, engages his class with fun demonstrations to teach them about making observations and predictions.	5.2(D), 5.3(A)	5.10(A,B,C)	1
The Myth of the Scientific Method	An explanation to help clear the many misconceptions and assumptions that people have of scientific exploration, whether it is an experiment or an investigation.	4.2 5.2	5. 11(B), 5.6(G)	1

Repeatable and Replicable	How replicability and repeatability ensure the credibility of an experiment using baseball stats collected over time as an analogy.	4.2(E) 5.2(E)	4.11(A), 4.9(D)i (2019)	1
Variables in Experiments and Investigations	How the nature of variables distinguishes an experiment from an investigation in context of baseball.	5.2(A)	5.11(E), 5.6(H) (2019)	1
Weather	What weather is and the tools and methods meteorologists use to analyze weather to make predictions.	5.3(A), 5.3(C)	5.3(B), 5.6(E), 5.9(D)	1
Difference between Science, Engineering, and Technology	What STEM means and the explanations for the terms Science, Technology, and Engineering in context of each other?	5.3 (C)	5.11(C), 5.9(D)iii (2019)	1
Who is a Scientist?	An introduction to the wonderful profession of being a scientist, who they are, and what they do.	4.3(C) 5.3(C)	4.3(B), 4.6(A, B, C), 4.9(D)i,ii,ii	1
The Bone wars	A brief look at paleontology and its rivalry-fueled history in American Science.	5.3 (A), 5.3 (C)	5.11(A), 5.7(D) (2019)	1

Matter and Energy

Reader Name	Description	Science TEKS	ELA TEKS	No. of Reading Levels
Danger in the Grain Elevator	A second person point of view that explains the Science behind silo explosion on farms during the hottest days of summer..	5.5(C)	5.3(B), 5.6(E, G, H)	1
All that Glitter	The author talks about how their teacher Mr. Jones taught them about the properties of matter by explaining the mixing of metals to make alloys.	5.5 (A), 5.5 (C)	5.3(B), 5.6(F), 5.7(F, G), 5.9(D)	1
The Blackbird	How Science and Engineering came together in the making of the legendary bomber plane, the SR-71 Blackbird.	5.5(A), 5.3(C)	4.3(B), 4.6(A), 4.9(D), 4.10(A)	1

Physical and Chemical Changes	The delicious Science of physical and chemical changes behind baking and eating a chocolate cake.	5.5 (B)	5.11(B) 5.6(G)	1
The Making of Soft drinks	The manufacturing process of soft drink and a brief history of how they came into being.	5.5 (C)	5.11(D) 5.9(D)ii	1

Force, Motion and Energy

Reader Name	Description	Science TEKS	ELA TEKS	No. of Reading Levels
Refraction of Light	Students are introduced to the phenomenon of the bending of light at the border of water and air and how this refraction splits white light into its colors.	5.6(C), 5.4	5.6(G), 5.7(C), 5.9(D)	2
One Old Light Bulb	A brief introduction to the conversion of electric current to heat and light, and the application of this conversion in lightbulbs.	5.6(A), 5.1(B)	5.3(B), 5.6(H), 5.9(D)	2
Refraction at Water's Edge	This text discusses the phenomenon of the refraction of light at the boundary of air and water, and how archerfish use the bending of light to hunt for their prey.	5.6(C)	5.3(B), 5.6(A, F), 5.10(A, B)	2
Strike or Do I mean reflection	John teaches Charlene about reflection and absorption of light, and how this causes us to see colors using baseballs and an old door as a model.	5.6(C), 5.3(B)	5.6(A, B, C), 5.7(D), 5.10(A)	2
Air is to Insulator as Copper is to Conductor	A look at the workings of a vacuum flask or thermos and how it uses the Science behind insulation and conduction to keep its contents hot or cold.	5.5(A), 4.6 (B)	5.6(F, G), 5.7(F), 5.9(D)iii	1
How Light Affects Sight	The text explains how light allows us to see through reflection and absorption, and the roles of the eyes and brain in processing visual input.	5.6(A), 5.6(C), 5.10(A)	5.9(D), 5.10(A)	2
Speaking to the Man on the Moon	Recalling the day man first landed on the Moon becomes an impromptu Science lesson on mechanical and electromagnetic waves.	5.3(C) 5.6(A)	5.11(B), 5.6(G) (2019)	1

Earth and Space

Reader Name	Description	Science TEKS	ELA TEKS	No. of Reading Levels
Ancient Plants	Rosa learns how to classify the fossils of ancient plants as she and her grandmother explore a part of the Wyoming desert.	5.7(B), 5.9(D), 5.10(A)	5.3(B), 5.6(B, D)	2
Climate	What defines climates, the factors that influence the climate of a region, and the methods scientists use to collect data to study climates around the world.	5.8(A), 5.3(C)	5.3(B); 5.6(E); 5.9(D)i	1
Climate Zones	Edwin, Nolan, and Paolo eat and dress according to the climate of their region in the world.	5.8(A)	5.6(E, F), 5.9(D)	1
Earth, Moon and Sun	The movements of Earth and Moon, their relative movements to each other and the Sun.	4.8(C), 5.8 (C)	4.8(C), 5.8 (C), .9 (D)(iii) , 5.9(D) (iii) (2019)	3

Organisms and Environment

Reader Name	Description	Science TEKS	ELA TEKS	No. of Reading Levels
Restoration Story	The text explains the impact of human activity on wetlands Lake Hancock in Polk County, Florida and how the local agencies are trying to restore them.	5.3(C), 5.9(C)	5.3(B), 5.6(F), 5.7(G), 5.9(D)	1
Aquatic Food Web	An explanation of a typical aquatic food webs and the organisms involved.	5.9(B)	4.3(B), 4.6(D, E), 4.7(G), 4.9(D)	1
The Dust Bowl	The causes of the devastating drought infamously known as Dust Bowl and the preventive measure being taken to prevent it from happening again.	5.9(C)	5.11(A), 5.7(D) (2019)	1
Deforestation of Haiti	An explanation of how deforestation worsened the situation of Haiti during Hurricane Matthew.	5.9(C)	5.3 (B), 5.6(F), 5.10(A, B, C)	1