Course Description
Grades 6-8
Science Readers

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Grade 6 Science Readers

Scientific Investigation and Reasoning

Reader Name	Description	Science TEKS	ELA TEKS	No. of Reading Levels
Theories and Laws	Clearing the misconceptions surrounding theories and laws, and they are used by the scientific community.	6.3(A)	6.5(F), 6.8(D)	1
Mt. Pinatubo	The events surrounding the Mt. Pinatubo volcano and how the scientists onsite helped prevent further damage through their research and knowledge.	6.3(D)	6.10(D), 6.5(H) (2019)	1
Plate Tectonics at Work	Using the San Francisco earthquake as the backdrop, this text explains what led to the theory of continental drift and how movements in the tectonic plate cause earthquakes.	6.3(D)	6.10(D), 6.5(H) (2019)	1
Magnets and Wind	The properties of magnets and their role in maglev technology used for trains and wind turbines.	6.3(D)	6.5(C, F, G, H, I), 6.8(D)i,ii,iii	1
How are Theories Constructed	Defining what theories are and how scientist use facts and evidence to construct them.	6.3 (A)	6.10(D) 6.5(H) (2019)	1

Matter and Energy

Reader Name	Description	Science TEKS	ELA TEKS	No. of Reading Levels
Energy from Wind and Water	A discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of harnessing kinetic energy of flowing wind and water.	6.7 (A)	6.2(B), 6.5(F, G, H)	2
Wind Farms	All things wind turbine: What they are, how they work, where they are installed, why we need more of them, and some of their disadvantages.	6.7(A), 6.9(C)	6.5(F, G), 6.8(D)i,ii,iii	2
Minerals II	A second persona narrative of the process of identifying a mineral by testing for color, luster, streak, hardness, and cleavage.	6.6(C)	6.5(A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H), 6.8(D)i,ii,iii	2

New Foam Pushes up Sunken Concrete	A comparison of the traditional solution of mud jacking and the new foam injection method to repair the concrete of broken sidewalks and roads.	6.5(C)	6.10(A) 6.6(D) (2019)	1
Pumped Storage Reservoirs	What pumped storage reservoirs are, how some of the well-known ones were constructed, and some of their advantages and disadvantages.	6.7(A), 6.8(A)	6.10(D) 6.5(H) (2019)	1
Acids and Bases	How the knowledge of acids, bases, and salts can help in everyday scenarios, such as providing instant relief when someone bites a hot pepper.	6.5 (A)	6.10(A) 6.6(D) (2019)	1
Common Chemical Reactions	Defining a chemical reaction, what constitutes a chemical reaction, and how controlled 'explosions' are used in cars and rockets	6.5 (C)	6.10(C), 6.8(D)iii	1
Atoms, Elements, Compounds, and Mixtures	What atoms are and the role they play in understanding elements and compounds.	6.5(A), 6.6(A)	6.10(A), 6.6(D) (2019)	1
How Temperature Affects Changes in Matter	The effects of changes in temperature, such as changes in state, causes chemical changes, and affecting the rate of a reaction.	6.3(A), 6.5 (C)	6.10 (C), 6.8(D)iii (2019)	1
Energy Transfer	Transfer of the different kinds of energy against the backdrop of a music concert.	6.7, 6.9(C)	6.10(D), 6.5(H) (2019)	1

Force, Motion, and Energy				
Reader Name	**Description**	**Science TEKS**	**ELA TEKS**	**No. of Reading Levels**
Eddie the Eagle: A Battle with Forces	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.	4.6(D), 6.8(B)	4.3(B), 4.6(F, G, H, I), 4.10(A)	1
Lighting: Now and Then	An explanation of how electricity is produced, alternating and direct currents, and their uses in a small narrative about Ginny and her stay at her grandmother's house.	6.9 (C)	6.10(A), 6.6(D) (2019)	1
Need for Speed	A brief informative piece on the definition of speed and the attempts of famous car racers who tried to break the land speed records.	6.8(C)	6.10(A), 6.6(D) (2019)	1
Speed and Direction	How Science and Math help sailors navigate their way on the oceans, and some the tools used to keep track of speed and direction on the wide waters.	6.8(C), 6.4(A)	6.10(A), 6.6(D) (2019)	1
Supersonic Flight	The effects, such as sonic booms and shock waves, experienced when a plane approaches Mach 1, or the speed of sound, and how they led to the decline of the Concorde.	6,7,3 (D), 6.9(C)	6.6(C)(D), 6.8(D) i, ii	1
Describing Motion	A review of the concepts of distance, time, speed, and direction.	6.8 (B	6.10(D), 6.5(H) (2019)	1
Heat Flow	How coats provide heat, based on the concepts of heat transfer, conductors, and insulators.	4.6(A)(B), 6.9(A)	4.11(C), 4.9(D)iii (2019)	3
Balanced and Unbalanced Forces	An explanation of balanced and unbalanced forces in context of acceleration and motion.	6.8 (B)	6.10(D), 6.5(H) (2019)	2
Speed and Motion	Michelle and her friends go biking and observe the science of speed and motion along the way.	6.8 (B) (C)	6.10(D), 6.5 (H) (2019)	1

Earth and Space				
Reader Name	**Description**	**Science TEKS**	**ELA TEKS**	**No. of Reading Levels**
Tidal Waves	What constitutes a wave, how they propagate, and the types of waves are presented in this text using the context of tidal waves and their destructive power.	6.10 (D)	6.10(A), 6.6(D) (2019)	1
Plants in Space	The advent of space travel opened new avenues for scientific experiments in space, and this text explains the general observations seen of plants growing in zero gravity.	6.11 (C), 6.3 (D)	6.2(B), 6.5(F, G), 6.8(D)i,ii,iii	2
Rocks	What rocks are, their types i.e. igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary; how they are formed; and how rocks can transform from one type to another	6.10(B)	6.10(D), 6.5(H) (2019)	2
What Objects Share Our Solar System?	Planets, dwarf planets, moons, asteroids, comets, and other celestial bodies that make up our Solar System.	6.11(A), 6.3(D)	6.10(A), 6.6(D) (2019)	2
Inner Planets	A look at the unique characteristics of the inner planets Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars.	6.11(A)	6.2(B), 6.8(D)	2
Earthquakes - Outward Expression of Earth's Dynamic Interior	What happens inside and on the surface of Earth during an earthquake, and what scientists have learnt from past earthquakes, like the one in 1989 in San Francisco	6.10(A,D)	6.10(C) 6.8(D)iii	1
Interplanetary Real Estate	Written in the style of a real estate salesperson's pitch, the text introduces Jupiter's moons and the asteroid belt that circles our Solar System as options for rent or purchase.	6.11 (A)	8.7, 8.5(H) (2019)	1
Basketball on the Moon	The effects of mass on gravity explained in an imaginative scenario of basketball played on the Moon.	6.11(B)	6.10(D) 6.5(H) (2019)	1
Space Industry	The achievements of the US space industry through the years, mentions of Skylab, Hubble, and the aid provided to the ISS.	6.11(C), 6.3(D)	6.3(A), 6.5(F), 6.9(D	1

Mass, Weight, and Gravity	Students in Mr. Smedley's class watch videos of astronauts walking and experimenting on the Moon, and review their understanding of how mass, weight, and gravity are connected	6.11(A); 6.11(B)	6.10(D), 6.5(H) (2019)	1
The Hidden Secret to Skyscrapers	The importance of selecting the right kind of soil while constructing skyscrapers.	6.10(B), 6.3(D)	6.10, 6.8(D)iii (2019)	1
The Solar System	What constitutes our solar system and how scientists think it was formed.	6.11(A), 6.3(D)	6.10(C), 6.8(D)iii (2019)	1

Organisms and Environment

Reader Name	Description	Science TEKS	ELA TEKS	No. of Reading Levels
The Building Blocks of Life	A second narrative of an explanation of cells and their organelles using toy building blocks.	6.3(B), 6.12(A)(B)	6.10(A), 6.5(G) (2019)	3

Grade 7 Science Readers

Matter and Energy

Reader Name	Description	Science TEKS	ELA TEKS	No. of Reading Levels
Theories and Laws	Clearing the misconceptions surrounding theories and laws, and they are used by the scientific community.	7.3(A)	7.5(F), 7.8(D) i	1

Earth and Space

Reader Name	Description	Science TEKS	ELA TEKS	No. of Reading Levels
The Approach of Hurricane Matthew	Written before the onslaught of Hurricane Matthew, the text describes the strength of a hurricane and the damage they cause.	7.8 (A)	7.6 (A, B, C) 7.8 (D) i,ii,iii	2

Deforestation	The life-saving benefits of saving our forests, and how deforestation affects us as seen in Madagascar.	7.8 (B)	8.10(A), 8.5.(G) (2019)	1
Put it Out or Let it Burn?	The story behind Smokey Bear, the mascot of the Prevent Forest Fire campaign, and a look at some benefits of forest fires.	7.8 (A)	7.10(D), 7.5 (H) (2019)	2
Water Pollution	Drastic effects of water pollution on the environment, such as algal blooms, and how they water pollution is caused.	5.9 (C), 7.8 (C), 8.11 (C)	7.10 (D) 7.5 (H) (2019)	1

Organisms and Environment

Reader Name	Description	Science TEKS	ELA TEKS	No. of Reading Levels
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)	3.7(C), 3.9 (D) i, ii, iii, 3.10 (A, B, C	2
The Science Behind Skin Protection	The impact of the Sun's rays on skin, how ultraviolet radiation is categorized, and how to protect oneself from it.	7.12 (B)	7.10 (D), 7.5 (H) (2019)	1
Breathe in and Breathe out	The journey of a tiny blood cell through the respiratory and cardiovascular systems of the human body.	7.12 (B)	7.10(B), 7.6 (C) (2019)	1
True foodies	The process of digestion in the human body, and how to eat the right food to be a true foodie.	7.12 (B)	7.10, 7.5 (F) (2019)	2
Natural Selection	A brief look at natural selection, explained using the unique organisms found on the Galapagos Islands.	7.11(C)	7.10, 7.5 (F) (2019)	2

Grade 8 Science Readers

Scientific Investigation and Reasoning

Reader Name	Description	Science TEKS	ELA TEKS	No. of Reading Levels
The Grand Canyon: A Window to Earth's History	A brief introduction to the history of geology, and the application of its theories and laws while studying the Grand Canyon for clues to the formation of Earth.	8.3 (D)	8.10(C), 8.5(H) (2019)	1
Beyond Visible – The New Photovoltaic Technologies	A glimpse of the early days of the photovoltaic cell, its advantages and disadvantages, and the direction it is taking.	8.3 (D)	8.10(C), 8.5(C, H) (2019)	1
What Goes Up!	Sir Isaac Newton's Law of Universal Gravitation, and how his ideas influenced the advancements in current space technology.	8.3 (D)	8.2(B) , 8.2 (B) (2019)	1
Theories and Laws	Clearing the misconceptions surrounding theories and laws, and they are used by the scientific community	7.3(A)	7.5(F), 7.8(D) i	1

Matter and Energy

Reader Name	Description	Science TEKS	ELA TEKS	No. of Reading Levels
The Periodic Table	The description of the periodic table arranged according to Dmitri Mendeleev.	8.3(D), 8.5(C)	8.10(A), 8.5(H) (2019)	1
Big Surprise: The Rutherford Model	A comparison of J. J. Thompson's and Rutherford's models of the atom, and what lead to Rutherford's conclusions of the structure of the atom.	8.3(C), 8.3(D), 8.5(A)	8.10(C), 8.5(F) (2019)	1
Welcome to the Nuclear Navy	The structure of radioactive atoms, and how and why the navy uses nuclear energy to power their carriers and submarines.	8.3 (D), 8.5 (A)	8.10(D), 8.5(H) (2019)	1
Static Electricity on a Grand Scale	What exactly lighting is, when it occurs, and why it is so dangerous	8.1 (A), 8.5 (A)	8.10(C), 8.5(F) (2019)	1

Force, Motion, and Energy

Reader Name	Description	Science TEKS	ELA TEKS	No. of Reading Levels
Inertia	An explanation of the concept of inertia in context of launching and landing of a space shuttle.	8.6 (C)	8.10(A), 8.6(D) (2019)	1

Earth and Space

Reader Name	Description	Science TEKS	ELA TEKS	No. of Reading Levels
Ocean Currents	Cold currents versus warm currents, and how they affect climates as they travel around the globe.	8.10 (C)	8.10(C), 8.5(H) (2019)	1
A Star for Mom's Birthday	A second person narrative of how you use some properties of a star to select one as a 'gift' for mom.	8.8 (A)	8.9 (A), 8.5(E) (2019)	1
Our Necessary Moon	Some ideas of how the Moon may have formed, and how its presence influenced and continues to influence life on Earth.	8.7(C)	8.10 (C) , 8.5 (F) (2019)	1
Solar Systems, Galaxies and the Universe	A brief description of the solar system, its components, and theories about its origin.	8.3(D), 8.8(A)	8.10(A) , 8.9(B) (2019)	1
The Little Ice Age	A discussion of the possible causes of the Little Ice Age that lasted from the 14th century till the 19th century	8.9. 8.10(C)	8.10(D) , 8.5(H) (2019)	1
How Did Our Solar System Form?	How scientists formed the theory of the formation of the solar system using the planets' orbital motion as evidence.	8.3(D), 8.8(D)	8.10(A) , 8.8(D) i (2019)	1
Our Galaxy	A brief introduction to our galaxy, the Milky Way, and what we know and don't know about it.	8.8(A)(B)	8.10(C) , 8.6(E) (2019)	2
What Determines the Weather?	The role of air in forming weather and how scientists are learning how to predict the weather more accurately	8.3(D), 8.10(B)	8.10(A) , 8.8(D) i (2019)	2

Organisms and Environment				
Reader Name	**Description**	**Science TEKS**	**ELA TEKS**	**No. of Reading Levels**
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