



Readtopia®

Essential Elements for Science

Standards for High School



DON·JOHNSTON
Human Learning Tools

● = Aligned with Standard

◐ = Partially Meets Standard
(and/or can be met with additional teacher input)

Essential Elements for Science Standards for High School

ADDRESSED WITH READTOPIA

HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE STANDARDS

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Matter and Its Interactions | Structures and Properties of Matter

| | | |
|-------------------|--|---|
| Initial Level | Recognize that a change has occurred during a chemical reaction. | ● |
| Precursor Level | Identify the changes that have occurred during a chemical reaction (e.g., metal-rust, paper-burn). | ● |
| Target Level | Make a claim supported by evidence to explain patterns of chemical properties that occur in a substance during a common chemical reaction (e.g., baking soda and vinegar). | ● |
| General Education | HS-PS1-2 Construct and revise an explanation for the outcome of a simple chemical reaction based on the outermost electron states of atoms, trends in the periodic table, and knowledge of the patterns of chemical properties. | ● |

Motion and Stability: Forces and Motion | Forces and Motion

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|-------------------|--|---|
| Initial Level | Identify safety equipment devices that minimize the force of a collision (e.g., floor mats, helmets, or steel-toed boots). | ● |
| Precursor Level | Use data to compare the effectiveness of safety devices to determine which best minimizes the force of a collision | ● |
| Target Level | Evaluate the effectiveness of safety devices and design a solution that could minimize the force of a collision. | ● |
| General Education | HS-PS2-3 Apply scientific and engineering ideas to design, evaluate, and refine a device that minimizes the force on a macroscopic object during a collision. | ● |

Energy | Conservation of Energy and Energy Transfer

| | | |
|-------------------|--|---|
| Initial Level | Compare relative difference in temperature (warmth, coldness) of two liquids. | ● |
| Precursor Level | Compare the temperatures of two liquids of different temperatures before and after combining. | |
| Target Level | Investigate and predict the temperatures of two liquids before and after combining to show uniform energy distribution. | |
| General Education | HS-PS3-4 Plan and conduct an investigation to provide evidence that the transfer of thermal energy when two components of different temperature are combined within a closed system results in a more uniform energy distribution among the components in the system. | |

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PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Waves and Their Applications in Technologies for Information Transfer | Wave Properties

| | | |
|-------------------|--|---|
| Initial Level | Identify how common technological devices are used for different purposes. | ● |
| Precursor Level | Identify common devices which use light or sound waves to transmit information. | ● |
| Target Level | Make a claim supported by evidence that shows how some devices use light and sound waves to transmit and capture information. | ● |
| General Education | HS-PS4-5 Communicate technical information about how some technological devices use the principles of wave behavior and wave interactions with matter to transmit and capture information and energy. | ● |

LIFE SCIENCE

From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes | Structure and Function

| | | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Initial Level | Recognize that different organs have different functions. | |
| Precursor Level | Identify which organs work for a specific function. | |
| Target Level | Use a model to illustrate the organization and interaction of major organs into systems (e.g., circulatory, respiratory, digestive, sensory) in the body to provide specific functions. | |
| General Education | HS-LS1-2 Develop and use a model to illustrate the hierarchical organization of interacting systems that provide specific functions within multicellular organisms. | |

From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes | Growth and Development of Organisms

| | | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Initial Level | Recognize that organisms are composed of cells. | |
| Precursor Level | Use a model to relate the number of cells to the size of a body. | |
| Target Level | Use a model to illustrate how growth occurs when cells multiply. | |
| General Education | HS-LS1-4 Use a model to illustrate the role of cellular division (mitosis) and differentiation in producing and maintaining complex organisms. | |

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LIFE SCIENCE

Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics | Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

| | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Initial Level | Identify food and shelter needs for familiar wildlife. | ● |
| Precursor Level | Recognize the relationship between population size and available resources for food and shelter from a graphical representation. | ● |
| Target Level | Use a graphical representation to explain the dependence of an animal population on other organisms for food and their environment for shelter. | ● |
| General Education | HS-LS2-2 Use mathematical representations to support and revise explanations based on evidence about factors affecting biodiversity and populations in ecosystems of different scales. | |

Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits | Variation of Traits

| | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Initial Level | Compare traits of parents and offspring. | ● |
| Precursor Level | Make a claim supported by evidence that parents and offspring may have different traits. | ● |
| Target Level | Defend why reproduction may or may not result in offspring with different traits. | ● |
| General Education | HS-LS3-2 Make and defend a claim based on evidence that inheritable genetic variations may result from (1) new genetic combinations through meiosis, (2) viable errors occurring during replication, and/or (3) mutations caused by environmental factors. | |

Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity | Adaptation

| | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Initial Level | Match particular species to their various environments. | ● |
| Precursor Level | Identify factors in an environment that require special traits to survive. | ● |
| Target Level | Explain how the traits of particular species allow them to survive in their specific environments. | ● |
| General Education | HS-LS4-2 Construct an explanation based on evidence that the process of evolution primarily results from four factors: (1) the potential for a species to increase in number, (2) the heritable genetic variation of individuals in a species due to mutation and sexual reproduction, (3) competition for limited resources, and (4) the proliferation of those organisms that are better able to survive and reproduce in the environment. | |

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EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCE

Earth's Place in the Universe | Earth and the Solar System

| | | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Initial Level | Identify characteristics of the seasons. | |
| Precursor Level | Use a model of Earth and Sun to show how Earth's position in its orbit around the Sun correspond with the four seasons. | |
| Target Level | Use a model of Earth and the Sun to show how Earth's tilt and orbit around the Sun cause changes in seasons. | |
| General Education | HS-ESS1-4 Use mathematical or computational representations to predict the motion of orbiting objects in the solar system. | |

Earth's Systems | Earth's Materials and Systems

| | | |
|-------------------|--|---|
| Initial Level | Recognize changes (e.g., mountain formation, erosion, and glacial changes) that occurred on Earth's surface. | ● |
| Precursor Level | Recognize if processes that change Earth's surface are constructive or destructive. | ● |
| Target Level | Use a model to show how constructive forces (e.g., volcanoes) and destructive mechanisms (e.g., weathering, coastal erosion) change Earth's surface. | ● |
| General Education | HS-ESS2-1 Develop a model to illustrate how Earth's internal and surface processes operate at different spatial and temporal scales to form continental and ocean-floor features. | |

Earth's Systems | Weather and Climate

| | | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Initial Level | Recognize the differences between geographical climates (e.g., Minnesota versus Florida, desert versus rainforest). | |
| Precursor Level | Recognize climate changes have occurred (e.g., a change in average temperature, precipitation patterns, glacial ice volumes, sea levels). | |
| Target Level | Recognize the differences between geographical climates (e.g., Minnesota versus Florida, desert versus rainforest). | |
| General Education | HS-ESS2-4 Use a model to describe how variations in the flow of energy into and out of Earth's systems result in changes in climate. | |

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HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE STANDARDS

EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCE

Earth and Human Activity | Natural Resources

| | | |
|-------------------|--|---|
| Initial Level | Recognize characteristics of natural hazards (e.g., floods, earthquakes, tornadoes). | ● |
| Precursor Level | Recognize how natural hazards (e.g., floods, earthquakes, tornadoes) influence human activity. | ● |
| Target Level | Construct an explanation based on evidence for how natural hazards have influenced human activity. | ● |
| General Education | HS-ESS3-1 Construct an explanation based on evidence on how the availability of natural resources, hazards, and climate have influenced human activity. | ◐ |

Earth and Human Activity | Natural Resources

| | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Initial Level | Recognize strategies to manage objects (e.g., dispose, repurpose, or recycle). | ● |
| Precursor Level | Describe the factors that would favor one strategy to conserve, recycle, or reuse resources over another | ● |
| Target Level | Construct an argument for a strategy to conserve, recycle, or reuse resources. | ● |
| General Education | HS-ESS3-2 Evaluate competing design solutions for developing, managing, and utilizing energy and mineral resources based on cost-benefit ratios. | |

Earth and Human Activity | Human Impacts on Earth Systems

| | | |
|-------------------|--|---|
| Initial Level | Gather data on the effects of a local (e.g., class or school-wide) conservation strategy. | ● |
| Precursor Level | Organize data on the effects of conservation strategies (e.g., using less energy, using rechargeable batteries, recycling or repurposing materials). | ● |
| Target Level | Analyze data to determine the effects of a conservation strategy on the level of a natural resource. | ● |
| General Education | HS-ESS3-3 Create a computational simulation to illustrate the relationships among management of natural resources, the sustainability of human populations, and biodiversity. | ◐ |

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HIGH SCHOOL BIOLOGY STANDARDS

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LIFE

From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes | Structure and Function

| | | |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Initial Level | Identify major organs of the body. | |
| Precursor Level | Indicate the function of major organs of the body. | |
| Target Level | Explain how different organs of the body carry out essential functions of life. | |
| General Education | HS-LS1-1 Construct an explanation based on evidence for how the structure of DNA determines the structure of proteins which carry out the essential functions of life through systems of specialized cells. | |

From Molecules to Organisms | Structure and Function

| | | |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Initial Level | Identify changes in the data display (e.g. objects, pictures, graphs, charts, etc.). | |
| Precursor Level | Compare the before and after data on changes that occur to an organism. | |
| Target Level | Collect data from an investigation to show how different organisms react to changes (e.g., heart rate increases with exercise, pupils react to light). | |
| General Education | HS-LS1-3 Plan and conduct an investigation to provide evidence that feedback mechanisms maintain homeostasis. | |

Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics | Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

| | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Initial Level | Recognize that there was a change in the population size. | ● |
| Precursor Level | Use a graphical representation to show changes in population size. | ● |
| Target Level | Use a graphical representation to explain changes over time in the population size of an animal species (e.g., currently on the endangered list). | ● |
| General Education | HS-LS2-1 Use mathematical and/or computational representations to support explanations of factors that affect carrying capacity of ecosystems at different scales. | |

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BIOLOGY

From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes | Adaptation

| | | |
|-------------------|--|---|
| Initial Level | Recognize that some organisms survive better in certain environments. | ● |
| Precursor Level | Using data sets, identify organisms that would survive better in certain environments. | ◐ |
| Target Level | Interpret data sets to identify an advantageous heritable trait. | ◐ |
| General Education | HS-LS4-3 Apply concepts of statistics and probability to support explanations that organisms with an advantageous heritable trait tend to increase in proportion to organisms lacking this trait. | |

Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity | Adaptation

| | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Initial Level | Identify a human activity that has an effect on a species. | ● |
| Precursor Level | Using a mathematical model, determine which human actions help or harm a species. | ● |
| Target Level | Evaluate a strategy to protect a species. | ● |
| General Education | HS-LS4-6 Create or revise a simulation to test a solution to mitigate adverse impacts of human activity on biodiversity. | ◐ |