



Readtopia[®]

Essential Elements for Science

Standards for High School



DON•JOHNSTON
Human Learning Tools

HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE STANDARDS

ADDRESSED
WITH READTOPIA

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

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.	

HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE STANDARDS

ADDRESSED WITH READTOPIA

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.	

HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE STANDARDS

ADDRESSED
WITH READTOPIA

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.	

HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE STANDARDS

ADDRESSED WITH READTOPIA

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.	

HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE STANDARDS

ADDRESSED
WITH READTOPIA

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.	◐

HIGH SCHOOL BIOLOGY STANDARDS

ADDRESSED WITH READTOPIA

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.	

● = Aligned with Standard

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

HIGH SCHOOL BIOLOGY STANDARDS

ADDRESSED
WITH READTOPIA

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.	◐