

Texas Science Grade 8 delivers instruction, practice, and review to help students develop scientific literacy, deepen conceptual understanding, and apply scientific practices. Students explore concepts such as force and motion, the physical and chemical properties of matter, characteristics of our universe, factors affecting Earth's climates, and interdependence of living systems and the environment.

The two-semester course is arranged in themed units, each with two to three lessons. In each unit, activities make complex ideas accessible to students as they discover the nature of science through focused content, interactive mini-investigations, multi-modal representations, and personalized feedback. Each lesson includes a variety of activities such as direct instruction, application of skills, performance tasks, and formative and summative assessments. Students engage with the subject matter in an interactive, feedback-rich environment as they progress through standards-aligned content and demonstrate their learning through computer- and teacher-scored assignments.

This course is built to the Next Generation Science Standards for middle school science.

Length: Two semesters

UNIT 1: NATURE OF SCIENCE

- Lesson 1: What Is Science?
- Lesson 2: Types of Investigations
- Lesson 3: Using Models
- Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: Nature of Science

UNIT 2: MEASUREMENT AND DATA

- Lesson 1: Tools and Measurement
- Lesson 2: Displaying and Interpreting Data
- Lesson 3: Wrap-Up: Measurement and Data

UNIT 3: NATURE OF MATTER

- Lesson 1: What Is Matter?
- Lesson 2: Atomic Structure
- Lesson 3: Elements and the Periodic Table
- Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: Nature of Matter

UNIT 4: CHANGES IN MATTER

- Lesson 1: How Can Matter Change?
- Lesson 2: Chemical Equations
- Lesson 3: Wrap-Up: Changes in Matter

UNIT 5: FORCE AND MOTION

- Lesson 1: Describing Forces
- Lesson 2: What Is Motion?
- Lesson 3: Wrap-Up: Force and Motion

UNIT 6: MOTION IN SPACE

- Lesson 1: Sun-Earth-Moon System
- Lesson 2: Our Sun and Other Stars
- Lesson 3: The Universe
- Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: Motion in Space

UNIT 7: SPACE EXPLORATION TECHNOLOGY

- Lesson 1: Electromagnetic Waves
- Lesson 2: Waves and Technology
- Lesson 3: Space Exploration
- Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: Space Exploration Technology

UNIT 8: SEMESTER WRAP-UP

- Lesson 1: Semester Wrap-Up

UNIT 9: EXPLORING EARTH

- Lesson 1: Models of Earth
- Lesson 2: The Atmosphere
- Lesson 3: Oceans
- Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: Exploring Earth

UNIT 10: EARTH'S WEATHER

- Lesson 1: Weather
- Lesson 2: Severe Weather
- Lesson 3: Wrap-Up: Earth's Weather

UNIT 11: CLIMATE AND IMPACT OF HUMANS

- Lesson 1: Climate
- Lesson 2: Impacts of Humans
- Lesson 3: Wrap-Up: Climate and Impact of Humans

UNIT 12: EARTH'S PLATES

- Lesson 1: Plate Tectonics
- Lesson 2: Earthquakes and Volcanoes
- Lesson 3: Wrap-Up: Earth's Plates

UNIT 13: OUR CHANGING PLANET

- Lesson 1: Deforming Earth's Crust
- Lesson 2: Weathering and Erosion
- Lesson 3: Geologic Time
- Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: Our Changing Planet

UNIT 14: EARTH'S BIOSPHERE

- Lesson 1: Characteristics of Ecosystems
- Lesson 2: Interactions in Ecosystems
- Lesson 3: Wrap-Up: Earth's Biosphere

UNIT 15: CHANGES TO EARTH'S BIOSPHERE

- Lesson 1: Succession and Ecosystem Stability
- Lesson 2: Natural Selection
- Lesson 3: Wrap-Up: Changes to Earth's Biosphere

UNIT 16: SEMESTER WRAP-UP

- Lesson 1: Semester Wrap-Up