



Next Generation Science Standards

3rd Grade

Overarching Themes

From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

- a. Describe that organisms have unique and diverse life cycles but all have common birth, growth, reproduction, and death. Changes that organisms go through during their life form a pattern. (3-LS1-1)

Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy and Dynamics

- a. Explain that some animals form groups that help members to survive. (3-LS2-1)

Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits

- a. Plants and animals have traits inherited from parents and variation of these traits can often be seen. (3-LS3-1)
- b. Traits in plants and animals can be influenced by the environment. (3-LS3-2)

Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity

- a. Fossils can provide evidence that organisms and their environments existed long ago. (3-LS4-1)
- b. Variation among similar organisms may result in different levels of success in survival and reproduction (e.g. a more colorful flower may be more effectively pollinated). (3-LS4-2)
- c. When an environment changes the types of plants and animals that live there may change too. (3-LS4-4)

Earth and Human Activity

- a. Notice how the Nature Trail is designed to reduce the impact of weather on the integrity of the trail. Where do you see that kind of design in the trail? (3-ESS3-1)