

Instructional Vocabulary

Grade 2 Science

Unit 1: What is a Scientist?

- **Process skills** – the foundation of problem solving in science, including observation, communication, classification, measurement, inference, and predicting

Unit 2: Change Occurs – Investigating Matter

- **Change** – to become different from the way it was before
- **Mass** – the amount of matter in something
- **Melt** – to change from a solid to a liquid by the addition of heat
- **Temperature** – a way of measuring how hot or cold something is. Temperature is measured using either the Fahrenheit (F) or Celsius (C) scale.

Unit 3: Change Occurs – Investigating Force and Motion

- **Effect** – the power to produce an outcome or achieve a result
- **Decrease** – to grow or cause to gradually grow less or smaller, as in number, amount, or intensity
- **Increase** – the amount or rate by which something is becoming greater or larger
- **Movement** – a change in place or position

Unit 4: Investigating Our Natural World: Earth Materials and Natural Resources

- **Reduce** – cut down on; make a reduction in
- **Reuse** – the act of salvaging (or in some manner returning) a discarded item into something usable
- **Marine** (ocean, salt water) – of, or relating to, the sea or ocean (salt water environment)

Unit 5: Making Good Choices: Weather Safety

- **Weather** – the condition of the atmosphere in a place for a short period of time, including humidity, cloud cover, temperature, wind, and precipitation
- **Choice** – the act or an instance of choosing or selecting

Unit 6: Patterns of Change: Weather

- **Cloud** – a mass of water droplets or ice crystals that have clumped together (condensed) in the atmosphere
- **Evaporation** – the process of changing from a liquid to a gas
- **Precipitation** – water that falls to the Earth's surface as rain, snow, sleet, hail, or fog (Fog is sometimes referred to as a low lying cloud.)
- **Weather** – the condition of the atmosphere at a place for a short period of time including humidity, cloud cover, temperature, wind, and precipitation

Unit 7: Exploring the Water Cycle

- **Condensation** – the process of changing from a gas to a liquid
- **Evaporation** – the process of changing from a liquid to a gas
- **Water cycle** – the change of water from one state to another as it moves between Earth's surfaces to the atmosphere

Unit 8: Patterns of Change: Observing the Sky

- **Moon** – a natural object that orbits a planet; the Moon is the Earth's only natural satellite and nearest neighbor in space
- **Star** – an object in space made up of gas that gives off light and heat from nuclear reactions

Unit 9: Characteristics of Living Organisms

- **Growth** – an increase in size, number, value, or strength; the act of growing, getting bigger or higher
- **Behavior** – the actions or reactions of an object or organism
- **External characteristic** – a specific, visible feature
- **Physical characteristic** – a characteristics that is physical in nature, such as mass, shape, size, color, volume, water-proofing, and physical state

Unit 10: Organisms and Environments

- **Life cycle** – the stages of growth and development through which an organism passes during its lifetime
- **Hibernation** – a state of inactivity and metabolic depression in animals, characterized by lower body temperature, slower breathing, and lower metabolic rate
- **Migration** – seasonal movement for animals, birds, or fish to breed