

Instructional Vocabulary

Kindergarten Science

Unit 1: Exploring Environmentally Appropriate and Responsible Practices

- **Safety** – the condition of being reasonably free from danger and hazards that may cause injury or illness
- **Responsible** – able to answer for one's conduct
- **Recycle** – processing materials to make something new

Unit 2: Exploring Matter and Energy

- **Matter** – a substance that has mass and takes up space
- **Senses** – the means through which the body feels and perceives, including seeing, hearing, touching, smelling, and tasting
- **Property** – a characteristic that can be observed, measured, or changed without changing the substance itself, such as size, shape, color, density, mass, odor, luster, conductivity, or hardness

Unit 3: Exploring Force, Motion, and Energy

- **Light** – any device serving as a source of illumination
- **Sound** – vibrations that travel through a solid, liquid, or gas that are detectable by the ear
- **Heat** – thermal energy that flows from an object or substance at a higher temperature toward an object or substance at a lower temperature
- **Movement** – a natural event that involves a change in the position or location of something

Unit 4: Exploring Earth Materials

- **Property** – a characteristic that can be observed, measured, or changed without changing the substance itself, such as size, shape, color, density, mass, odor, luster, conductivity, or hardness
- **Rock** – a solid mixture of minerals that was formed in the Earth's crust

Unit 5: Exploring Weather

- **Weather** – the condition of the atmosphere in a place for a short period of time, including humidity, cloud cover, temperature, wind, and precipitation
- **Seasons** – one of the four periods of the year - spring, summer, autumn (fall), and winter; each season has different average temperatures, weather conditions, and lengths of daylight; some tropical areas have only two seasons - rainy and dry; the seasons are opposite in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres

Unit 6: Exploring Space

- **Day** – the time that starts when the Sun comes up and ends when the Sun goes down
- **Night** – the time that starts when the Sun goes down and ends when the Sun rises
- **Moon** – a natural object that orbits a planet; the Earth's Moon is its only natural satellite and nearest neighbor in space

- **Sun** – a huge ball of gases around which the Earth and other planets of our solar system revolve; the Sun is a star that provides Earth with most of its light and heat energy

Unit 7: Exploring Characteristics and Basic Needs of Living Organisms

- **Living organism** – to be alive and having basic needs; having the ability to grow, reproduce, and respond to such stimuli as light, heat, and sound
- **Nonliving object** – inanimate, not endowed with life; things that are not alive or abiotic substances, such as soil, rocks, or water
- **Basic needs** – required for an organism to survive, such as air, water, nutrients, light or food, shelter, etc.

Unit 8: Exploring Weather: A Final Look

- **Observe** – to use the senses and instruments to gather information; to watch attentively, note, or make mention of
- **Year** – a period of time containing 365 (or 366) days; also a period of time occupying a regular part of a calendar year that is used for some particular activity

Unit 9: Exploring Organisms and Environments

- **Change** – to become different from the way it was before
- **Life cycle** – the stages of growth and development through which an organism passes during its lifetime
- **Part** – a portion of a natural object
- **Resemble** – to be like or similar to something else