

## Instructional Vocabulary

### Grade 3 Science

#### Unit 1: Investigating Properties of Matter

- **Matter** – anything that takes up space and has mass
- **Mass** – the amount of matter in something
- **Mixture** – a combination of two or more substances that can be easily separated in some physical way
- **Gas** – a state of matter in which the substance takes both the shape and the volume of its container

#### Unit 2: Investigating Matter and Change

- **Temperature** – a measure of how hot or cold something is
- **Energy** – the ability to change matter
- **Water vapor** – the gas state of water
- **Evaporation** – the process of changing from a liquid to a gas
- **Condensation** – the process of changing from a gas to a liquid

#### Unit 3: Investigating Weather

- **Atmosphere** – the air that surrounds the Earth; it is made of a mixture of gases
- **Meteorologist** – a scientist who studies the weather

#### Unit 4: Investigating Force, Motion, and Energy

- **Energy** – the ability to make things happen (anything that has the potential to create change or do work)
- **Force** – a push or pull that changes the position or motion of an object/material
- **Gravity** – the force that pulls objects toward each other; gravity causes objects to fall toward the center of the Earth
- **Magnetism** – a force that pulls magnetic materials across a distance
- **Mechanical energy** – the energy of moving things

#### Unit 5: Investigating the Natural World

- **Weathering** – the breaking down and wearing away of rock (or other matter)
- **Erosion** – the movement of weathered material by wind, water, or ice
- **Decomposition** – the process by which decomposers break down dead material and waste into simpler substances

#### Unit 6: Investigating the Solar System

- **Planet** – a large object that orbits a star; the Earth, a planet, orbits the Sun, a star
- **Solar system** – the Sun and all of the objects that move around it
- **Sun** – a huge ball of gases around which the Earth and other planets of the solar system revolve; the Sun is a star that provides Earth with most of its light and heat energy
- **Orbit** – the path that one object in space takes around another object in space

- **Revolution (revolve)** – one complete circle made by a planet or satellite around another body
- **Rotation (rotate)** – the spinning of a planet or moon on its axis

#### Unit 7: Investigating Characteristics of Living Things

- **Inherited (trait)** – characteristic that is passed from parent to offspring
- **Behavior** – the actions of an organism that help it survive in its environment; a behavior is a response to a stimulus; a behavior can be learned or instinctive
- **Response** – something an organism does when it senses a stimulus

#### Unit 8: Investigating Structures and Functions of Organisms

- **Structure** – a body part that does a certain “job” for an organism
- **Function** – what something is used for; purpose

#### Unit 9: Investigating Ecosystems

- **Ecosystem** – a community of living and nonliving things
- **Population** – all of the organisms of the same species that live in the same place at the same time
- **Community** – populations that live in the same place at the same time
- **Thrive** – to live, grow, and reproduce successfully
- **Perish** – to die