

Instructional Vocabulary

Grade 4 Science

Unit 1: Physical Properties of Matter

- **Matter** – a substance that has mass and takes up space
- **Physical property** – a property that can be observed, measured, or changed without changing the substance itself

Unit 2: Mixtures and Solutions

- **Mixture** – a combination of substances in which the individual substances do not change or combine chemically, but instead retain their own individual properties
- **Solution** – a type of mixture in which the particles of one or more substances are uniformly dissolved throughout another substance
- **Matter** – a substance that has mass and takes up space
- **Properties** – characteristics used to identify matter

Unit 3: Forms of Energy

- **Energy** – anything that has the potential to create change and do work

Unit 4: The Changing Earth

- **Weathering** – the action of physical conditions on Earth that cause earth materials to change in color, texture, composition, or form; a mechanical or chemical process which breaks down rocks into smaller pieces
- **Erosion** – the process where earth materials are broken down and moved from one area to another
- **Soil** – a mixture of decaying organic material, weathered rock, water, mineral fragments, and air that takes thousands of years to develop

Unit 5: Natural Resources

- **Renewable resource** – natural resources that are constantly being recycled; an example of a renewable resource is water
- **Nonrenewable resource** – natural resources that are used up at a rate faster than they can be replaced by natural resources; examples of nonrenewable resources are fossil fuels and gold
- **Conservation** – the protection, preservation, management, or restoration of natural resources

Unit 6: Patterns of the Earth

- **Weather symbol** – a visual representation of a weather condition
- **Map key** – an explanatory table of symbols used on a map or chart

Unit 7: Traits

- **Inherited trait** – characteristics that are determined by an organism's genetics and passed from parent to offspring
- **Learned behavior** – behaviors that are acquired by an organism's interactions with its environment and/or parents

Unit 8: Energy Flow in Living Systems

- **Ecosystem** – the living and nonliving components of an area
- **Consumer** – an organism that eats other organisms for food
- **Producer** – an organism that makes its own food
- **Niche** – the unique role or job of an organism in an ecosystem
- **Habitat** – the place where an organism lives; habitats supply the organism with food, shelter, moisture, and temperature for survival

Unit 9: Adaptations for Survival

- **Adaptations** – structure, behavior, or another trait in an organism that helps it to survive in its environment
- **Camouflage** – coloration of an organism that is designed to deceive other organisms or to help it hide from predators
- **Mimicry** – a superficial resemblance of one organism to another or to another object in nature; this trick coloration helps the organism avoid predation

Unit 10: Life Cycles of Living Organisms

- **Life cycle** – a series of orderly changes that a living organism undergoes to reach adulthood
- **Metamorphosis** – when an organism goes through many stages to reach adulthood