

Fifth Grade Curriculum Overview

Fifth grade students continue to focus on scientific experimentation, learning the importance of selecting appropriate scientific instruments for measuring and recording observations. Fifth graders are introduced to more detailed concepts of sound and light and the tools used in their study. They learn about the properties of matter, including atoms, molecules, elements, and compounds. They also study cellular composition of organisms and the distinguishing characteristics of groups of organisms. In addition, fifth graders study the characteristics of the oceans and the Earth's changing surface.

Adopted Instructional Resources

The Fifth Grade portion of *McGraw-Hill Science 2002 - Virginia Edition* is the division's currently adopted text-based program. In addition, the division has adopted a wide variety of nonfiction trade books to reinforce science related concepts at the same time that students are mastering the fundamentals of reading. There is also an exhaustive list of materials and equipment intended to support an inquiry approach to learning science. Please see the attached documents for more information.