

Physical Science

Physical Science Curriculum Overview

Eighth grade students continue their involvement in scientific experimentation. They plan and conduct research projects that include classroom experimentations and literature reviews. Their research focuses on variables, repeated trials, and validating conclusions using evidence and data. Students share their work in written reports and oral presentations. They develop an in-depth understanding of the nature and structure of matter and the characteristics of energy and explore how technology applies to physical science principles. Eighth graders study the periodic table; physical and chemical changes; nuclear reactions; temperature and heat; sound; light; electricity and magnetism; and work, force, and motion.

Adopted Instructional Resources

The primary text for the Physical Science course is *Physical Science* (2002 Edition) published by Prentice Hall. Teachers can visit the free [companion web site](#) for additional instructional support materials and information. Prentice Hall also maintains a [student web page](#) for this textbook.

- [Middle School Auxiliary Science Materials List](#)

Students who need additional support may also use *Physical Science* (Concepts and Challenges Series) published by Globe-Fearon. This book is designed to present grade level appropriate content at a lower reading level (minus 2-3 grade levels). Globe-Fearon also maintains a free [companion web site](#) for students and a [Virginia SOL correlation](#) for this textbook.