

Grade One

There are four science units and one mini-unit in grade one. They are *Windowsill Gardens*, *Schoolyard Explorers*, *Animal Artifacts* and FOSS *Air and Weather*. There is a mini unit, *Fossils*, based in a guided reading book with activities with fossil replicas that extends the ideas in the Animal artifacts unit and centers on asking questions. In first-grade science students extend their observational skills and begin to quantify their observations. Two major themes are found in the first-grade units. The first is living and non-living things in a given environment are interrelated. The second is that organisms have physical and structural adaptations that allow them to survive.

Since many of the concepts are found in more than one unit, some teachers spend a block of time on a unit and reinforce the concepts and skills from it later in the year. Other teachers teach activities from different units at the same time. *Schoolyard Explorers* and *Weather* contain seasonal activities. Drawings, observations, and weather records are collected, compared and analyzed. For example, the daily weather records taken at noon over three months and compiled in bar graphs are compared to the data collected over the prior three months and analyzed as evidence for seasonal changes.

