

## LCCS 3rd Grade Science Curriculum Overview

Month	Unit
September-November	<b>Unit 1:</b> Forces and Interactions
November-February	<b>Unit 2:</b> Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems: Environmental Impacts on Organisms
February-April	<b>Unit 3:</b> Inheritance and Variation of Traits: Life Cycles and Traits
April-June	<b>Unit 4:</b> Weather and Climate

### Unit 1: FORCES & INTERACTIONS

**At a Glance:**

**In this unit, students are learning about:**

- identify* what force is and the difference between push and pull.
- explain* what balance and unbalanced forces are.
- understand* what “non-contact forces” are and the difference between magnetic and gravitational force.
- understand* how forces change shapes, speed, and motion of object/direction.
- explore* magnets and understand concepts of magnetic forces.
- explain* static electricity by exploring different interactive activities that will display its concepts.

**Timeline:** 16 Days

### Unit 2: INTERDEPENDENT RELATIONSHIPS IN ECOSYSTEMS: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ON ORGANISMS

**At a Glance:**

**In this unit, students are learning about:**

- understand* why animals live in groups and the need for it.
- identify* different types of animals through their diet (and what they eat).
- identify* different types of animals through their habitat (where they live).
- explain* different types of fossils that paleontologists study and also learn facts through a walking museum.
- create* different types of fossils and understand why paleontologists study them.
- understand* what can be learned from fossils.
- explore* plants and animal adaptations through physical traits and behaviors.
- *identify* ways how animals and plants survive.

- **identify** different environmental changes in different habitats.
- explain** how these environmental changes impact plants and animals.
- investigate/study** their animals and the way they live based on their interdependent relationship to the ecosystem.

**Timeline:** 18 Days

### Unit 3: INHERITANCE & VARIATION OF TRAITS: LIFE CYCLES & TRAITS

#### At a Glance:

#### In this unit, students are learning about:

- \***understand** what a life cycle is and the life cycle of a plant.
- \***investigate** plants through hands-on observation.
- \***understand** the life cycle of animals through nonfiction texts.
- \***explain** how traits are influenced by the environment that they live in.
- \***understand** what a trait is and how traits are determined by parents in an offspring.
- \***explain** the difference between inherited and learned traits/behaviors.
- \***apply** what they learned about plants and animals life cycles via- assessment/ quiz
- \***explain** the parts of a scientific explanation- claim, evidence, reasoning.
- \***investigate/study** the life cycles of an animal by creating a model in group work.
- \***explain** a life cycle of an animal using a model through presentations.
- \***understand** life cycles based on observations of real life life cycle kits.

**Timeline:** 12 Days

### Unit 4: WEATHER & CLIMATE

#### At a Glance:

- understand** what a natural disaster is and the different types of natural disasters- *tornadoes and hurricanes*
- understand** what a natural disaster is and the different types of natural disasters- *snow storms/blizzards*
- investigate** what a thunderstorm is and how it is formed.
- **explain** what the water cycle is and how it plays apart in the weather.
- explore** the water cycle through a hands on observation
- predict** different precipitation based on how clouds form.
- read** a variety of graphs based on weather patterns. (Pictographs)
- read** a variety of graphs based on weather patterns. (Bar Graphs)
- use** data with tables and graphs to describe weather conditions
- explain** a weather map and report by learning how to read it.
- understand** the difference between climate and weather.

**-Investigate and study** different weather phenomena around the world- *tsunamis, earthquakes*  
**-Investigate and study** different weather phenomena around the world- *volcanic eruptions*

**Timeline:** 13 Days