

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Science**  
**PISD Curriculum: Year at a Glance**

<b>Overarching Themes: *Patterns *Cycles *Systems *Models *Change and Constancy</b>		
<b>Bundle</b>	<b>Title</b> Enduring Understanding	<b>Guiding Questions</b>
1	<p><b><i>Safety, Processes, &amp; Notebooks</i></b></p> <p>Safety should always be considered when exploring, learning, and using various tools and equipment both inside and outside of the classroom.</p> <p>Notebooks help us organize our thoughts, data, and learning.</p> <p>Science is an ongoing cycle of questioning and problem solving</p>	<p>Why do we need to be careful when we are doing classroom or outdoor investigations?</p> <p>How do we organize our thoughts, information, connections, and other data?</p> <p>What skills and tools do we use as scientists?</p>
2	<p><b><i>Space &amp; Weather</i></b></p> <p>The sun is the essential component for energy in our solar system.</p>	<p>Why does the water cycle need the sun?</p> <p>What are some limitations of a model of the solar system?</p> <p>How does the sun impact the weather?</p>
3	<p><b><i>Formation of Soil</i></b></p> <p>The Earth's surface and its natural resources are constantly changing.</p> <p>Matter has physical properties (in relation to soil's properties)</p>	<p>What are some ways of classifying soil?</p> <p>How does soil change over time?</p> <p>How is soil formed?</p> <p>Why should we reuse soil?</p>
4	<p><b><i>Natural Resources</i></b></p> <p>The Earth's surface and its natural resources are constantly changing.</p> <p>Characteristics of natural resources help determine their use.</p>	<p>Why should we conserve natural resources?</p> <p>How do we use natural resources in every day life?</p> <p>How can you determine which material is most appropriate in a situation?</p>
5	<p><b><i>Landforms and Rapid Change</i></b></p> <p>The Earth's surface and its natural resources are constantly changing.</p>	<p>How do rapid changes affect the Earth in a positive-creating way?</p> <p>How do rapid changes affect the Earth in a negative-destroying way?</p> <p>How do rapid changes to the Earth affect our daily life?</p>

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6	<p><b><i>Scientific Investigation and Reasoning</i></b></p> <p>Science is an ongoing cycle of questioning and problem solving.</p> <p>We ask certain questions to find out certain information.</p>	<p>How can I learn new things on my own?</p> <p>How can I use my senses and other tools to help me learn things?</p> <p>How can I gather information and organize it?</p> <p>How can asking questions and finding the answers look differently depending on what I want to know?</p>
7	<p><b><i>Structures &amp; Functions of Organisms</i></b></p> <p>An organism has developed characteristics adapted to its environment to help it survive.</p>	<p>Why do plants and animals go through changes during their lifecycle?</p> <p>How can you compare the lifecycles of plants and animals?</p> <p>How are animals adapted for the environment in which they live?</p>
8	<p><b><i>Structures &amp; Functions of Environments</i></b></p> <p>Environments have structures and functions that work together as a system and support the growth and life of organisms.</p>	<p>What are the physical characteristics of an environment?</p> <p>How do the physical characteristics of an environment help an organism (population/community) meet basic needs?</p> <p>How do rapid changes to the Earth affect our daily life?</p>
9	<p><b><i>Interdependence</i></b></p> <p>An organism and the environment it is found in function as a system and the parts of that system depend on one another.</p>	<p>How does an organism depend on its environment?</p> <p>How does an environment depend on organisms?</p> <p>How would one change in a food chain affect an ecosystem?</p> <p>What organisms/how do organisms compete for resources?</p>
10	<p><b><i>Matter</i></b></p> <p>Matter has physical properties.</p>	<p>What are the measurable physical properties of an object?</p> <p>How is matter classified?</p> <p>How does matter change?</p> <p>Why does matter change?</p>
11	<p><b><i>Energy and Motion</i></b></p> <p>Forces cause change and energy exists in many forms.</p>	<p>What is energy?</p> <p>How is energy classified?</p> <p>How does a force cause change?</p> <p>How is gravity different from magnetism?</p>
12	<p><b><i>Enrichment</i></b></p>	