

**California State Science Standards for Grade 5  
Compared to K12 Science Program for Grade 5**

Strand/Topic	CA State Science Standards	Coverage	K12 grade, unit, lesson	Gap/Possibility for Covering Gap
<b>Physical Sciences (18 items) (30% of Test)</b>				
<b>Physical Sciences – Grade 5 11 items</b>				
<b>1. Elements and their combinations account for all the varied types of matter in the world. As a basis for understanding this concept:</b>	a. Students know that during chemical reactions the atoms in the reactants rearrange to form products with different properties. (1 item)	Full	5.5.4	
	b. Students know all matter is made of atoms, which may combine to form molecules. (1 item)	Full	5.5.1	
	c. Students know metals have properties in common, such as high electrical and thermal conductivity. Some metals, such as aluminum (Al), iron (Fe), nickel (Ni), copper (Cu), silver (Ag), and gold (Au), are pure elements; others, such as steel and brass, are composed of a combination of elemental metals. (1 or 2 items)	Full	5.5.2	
	d. Students know that each element is made of one kind of atom and that the elements are organized in the periodic table by their chemical properties. (1 item)	Full	5.5.2	
	e. Students know scientists have developed instruments that can create discrete images of atoms and molecules that show that the atoms and molecules often occur in well-ordered arrays. (1 item)	Full	5.5.1, 5.5.3	
	f. Students know differences in chemical and physical properties of substances are used to separate mixtures and identify compounds. (2 items)	Full	5.5.3	
	g. Students know properties of solid, liquid, and gaseous substances, such as sugar (C6H12O6), water (H2O), helium (He), oxygen (O2), nitrogen (N2), and carbon dioxide (CO2). (2 items)	Partial	3.5 5.3.1	K12 Grade 3 Unit 5 covers properties of matter, but not all of the substances listed by CA are explicitly covered. Oxygen and Nitrogen are covered in 5.3.1.
	h. Students know living organisms and most materials are composed of just a few elements. (1 item)	Full	5.5.7	
	i. Students know the common properties of salts, such as sodium chloride (NaCl). (0 or 1 item)	Partial	3.6 4.3 5.2	Some properties of salt are touched on as students study physical changes in grade 3, solubility in grade 4, and compounds and molecules and ocean water in grade 5. However, the CA objective, as stated here, is not explicitly addressed.
<b>Physical Sciences – Grade 4 7 items</b>				
<b>1. Electricity and magnetism are related effects that have many useful</b>	a. Students know how to design and build simple series and parallel circuits by using components such as wires, batteries, and bulbs. (1 item)	Full	4.7.2, 4.7.4	
	b. Students know how to build a simple compass and use it to detect magnetic effects, including Earth's magnetic field. (1 item)	Full	2.4.4 (optional)	
	c. Students know electric currents produce magnetic fields and know how to build a simple electromagnet. (1 item)	Full	4.7.6	

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<b>applications in everyday life. As a basis for understanding this concept:</b>	d. Students know the role of electromagnets in the construction of electric motors, electric generators, and simple devices, such as doorbells and earphones. (1 item)	Full	4.7.6	
	e. Students know electrically charged objects attract or repel each other. (1 item)	Full	4.7.1	
	f. Students know that magnets have two poles (north and south) and that like poles repel each other while unlike poles attract each other. (1 item)	Full	2.4.2	
	g. Students know electrical energy can be converted to heat, light, and motion. (1 item)	Partial	3.8	This K12 grade 3 unit touches on this concept, but it is not explicit.
<b>Life Sciences (18 items) (30% of Test)</b>				
<b>2. Plants and animals have structures for respiration, digestion, waste disposal, and transport of materials. As a basis for understanding this concept:</b>	<b>Life Sciences – Grade 5 9 items</b>			
	a. Students know many multicellular organisms have specialized structures to support the transport of materials. (1 item)	Full	4.5.1	
	b. Students know how blood circulates through the heart chambers, lungs, and body and how carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) and oxygen (O <sub>2</sub> ) are exchanged in the lungs and tissues. (2 items)	Full	5.8.3, 5.8.4	
	c. Students know the sequential steps of digestion and the roles of teeth and the mouth, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, large intestine, and colon in the function of the digestive system. (2 items)	Full	5.8.5	
	d. Students know the role of the kidney in removing cellular waste from blood and converting it into urine, which is stored in the bladder. (1 item)	Full	5.8.6	
	e. Students know how sugar, water, and minerals are transported in a vascular plant. (1 item)	Full	5.7.8	
	f. Students know plants use carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) and energy from sunlight to build molecules of sugar and release oxygen. (1 item)	Full	4.1.3	
	g. Students know plant and animal cells break down sugar to obtain energy, a process resulting in carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) and water (respiration). (1 item)	Full	5.6.4	
<b>2. All organisms need energy and matter to live and grow. As a basis for understanding this concept:</b>	<b>Life Sciences – Grade 4 9 items</b>			
	a. Students know plants are the primary source of matter and energy entering most food chains. (1 item)	Full	4.1.3	
	b. Students know producers and consumers (herbivores, carnivores, omnivores, and decomposers) are related in food chains and food webs and may compete with each other for resources in an ecosystem. (2 items)	Full	4.1.2, 4.1.3	
<b>3. Living organisms depend on one another and on their environment for survival. As a basis for understanding this concept:</b>	c. Students know decomposers, including many fungi, insects, and microorganisms, recycle matter from dead plants and animals. (1 item)	Full	4.1.2, 4.1.4	
	a. Students know ecosystems can be characterized by their living and nonliving components. (1 item)	Full	4.1.1	
	b. Students know that in any particular environment, some kinds of plants and animals survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all. (2 items)	Full	4.2.2	
	c. Students know many plants depend on animals for pollination and seed dispersal, and animals depend on plants for food and shelter. (1 item)	Full	2.9.6	

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	d. Students know that most microorganisms do not cause disease and that many are beneficial. (1 item)	Full	5.7.4, 5.7.5	
<b>Earth Sciences (18 items) (30% of Test)</b>				
<b>Earth Sciences – Grade 5 11 items</b>				
<b>3. Water on Earth moves between the oceans and land through the processes of evaporation and condensation. As a basis for understanding this concept:</b>	a. Students know most of Earth's water is present as salt water in the oceans, which cover most of Earth's surface. (0 or 1 item)	Full	5.1.1	
	b. Students know when liquid water evaporates, it turns into water vapor in the air and can reappear as a liquid when cooled or as a solid if cooled below the freezing point of water. (1 item)	Full	5.1.1	
	c. Students know water vapor in the air moves from one place to another and can form fog or clouds, which are tiny droplets of water or ice, and can fall to Earth as rain, hail, sleet, or snow. (1 item)	Full	5.1.1	
	d. Students know that the amount of fresh water located in rivers, lakes, underground sources, and glaciers is limited and that its availability can be extended by recycling and decreasing the use of water. (1 item)	Full	5.1.1	
<b>4. Energy from the Sun heats Earth unevenly, causing air movements that result in changing weather patterns. As a basis for understanding this concept:</b>	a. Students know uneven heating of Earth causes air movements (convection currents). (1 item)	Full	5.3.2	
	b. Students know the influence that the ocean has on the weather and the role that the water cycle plays in weather patterns. (1 item)	Full	5.2.2	
	c. Students know the causes and effects of different types of severe weather. (1 item)	Full	5.2.3, 5.2.4, 5.2.5	
	d. Students know how to use weather maps and data to predict local weather and know that weather forecasts depend on many variables. (1 item)	Full	3.1.4	
	e. Students know that the Earth's atmosphere exerts a pressure that decreases with distance above Earth's surface and that at any point it exerts this pressure equally in all directions. (1 item)	Partial	5.3.1	The fact that at any point the Earth's atmosphere exerts pressure equally in all directions is not explicitly addressed.
<b>5. The solar system consists of planets and other bodies that orbit the Sun in predictable paths. As a basis for understanding this concept:</b>	a. Students know the Sun, an average star, is the central and largest body in the solar system and is composed primarily of hydrogen and helium. (0 or 1 item)	Partial	3.11.2	The sun is not singled out as the largest body in the solar system.
	b. Students know the solar system includes the planet Earth, the Moon, the Sun, eight other planets and their satellites, and smaller objects, such as asteroids and comets. (1 item)	Full	3.11.3, 3.11.4	
	c. Students know the path of a planet around the Sun is due to the gravitational attraction between the Sun and the planet. (1 item)	Full	3.11.1	
<b>4. The properties of rocks and minerals reflect the processes that formed them. As a basis for understanding this concept:</b>	<b>Earth Sciences – Grade 4 7 items</b>			
	a. Students know how to differentiate among igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks by referring to their properties and methods of formation (the rock cycle). (1 item)	Full	4.8.5	
	b. Students know how to identify common rock-forming minerals (including quartz, calcite, feldspar, mica, and hornblende) and ore minerals by using a table of diagnostic properties. (1 item)	Full	4.8.1 - 4.8.4	

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<b>5. Waves, wind, water, and ice shape and reshape Earth's land surface. As a basis for understanding this concept:</b>	a. Students know some changes in the earth are due to slow processes, such as erosion, and some changes are due to rapid processes, such as landslides, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes. (2 items)	Full	4.8.7, 4.8.8, 4.9.1, 4.9.3	
	b. Students know natural processes, including freezing and thawing and the growth of roots, cause rocks to break down into smaller pieces. (1 item)	Full	4.9.1, 4.9.3	
	c. Students know moving water erodes landforms, reshaping the land by taking it away from some places and depositing it as pebbles, sand, silt, and mud in other places (weathering, transport, and deposition). (2 items)	Full	4.9.3	
<b>Investigation and Experimentation (6 items) (10% of Test)</b>				
<b>6. Scientific progress is made by asking meaningful questions and conducting careful investigations. As a basis for understanding this concept and addressing the content in the other three strands, students should develop their own questions and perform investigations. Students will:</b>	<b>Investigation and Experimentation – Grade 5 4 items</b>			
	a. Classify objects (e.g., rocks, plants, leaves) in accordance with appropriate criteria.	Full	4.8.5	
	b. Develop a testable question.	Full	4.8.5	
	c. Plan and conduct a simple investigation based on a student-developed question and write instructions others can follow to carry out the procedure.	Full	4.7.2, 5.5.5	
	d. Identify the dependent and controlled variables in an investigation.	Full	5.5.5	
	e. Identify a single independent variable in a scientific investigation and explain how this variable can be used to collect information to answer a question about the results of the experiment.	Full	5.5.4	
	f. Select appropriate tools (e.g., thermometers, meter sticks, balances, and graduated cylinders) and make quantitative observations.	Full	5.5.5	
	g. Record data by using appropriate graphic representations (including charts, graphs, and labeled diagrams) and make inferences based on those data.	Full	5.5.5	
	h. Draw conclusions from scientific evidence and indicate whether further information is needed to support a specific conclusion.	Full	5.5.5	
	i. Write a report of an investigation that includes conducting tests, collecting data or examining evidence, and drawing conclusions.	Full	Throughout K-5 units, for example: 4.1.3, 4.2.1, 4.3.3, 4.9.1, 4.6.4	
<b>6. Scientific progress is made by asking meaningful questions and conducting careful investigations. As a basis for understanding this concept and addressing the content in the other three strands, students should develop their own questions and perform</b>	<b>Investigation and Experimentation – Grade 4 2 items</b>			
	a. Differentiate observation from inference (interpretation) and know scientists' explanations come partly from what they observe and partly from how they interpret their observations.	Full	Explicitly addressed in 1.1.5, and implicit throughout all 1-5 units.	
	b. Measure and estimate the weight, length, or volume of objects.	Full	3.5.3, 3.5.4	
	c. Formulate and justify predictions based on cause-and-effect relationships	Full	4.7.3, 4.7.4, 4.10.1	
d. Conduct multiple trials to test a prediction and draw conclusions about the relationships between predictions and results.	Full	5.5.5		

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investigations. Students will:	e. Construct and interpret graphs from measurements.	Full	Throughout K-5 units, for example: 4.2.1, 4.3.7, 4.5.11, 4.7.6, 5.3.1, 5.3.8, 5.5.8	
	f. Follow a set of written instructions for a scientific investigation.	Full	5.5.5	