

Consolidated Unit Benchmarks Coded by Report Card Descriptor

3rd Grade Plant Unit

Descriptor: Understands science concepts

- Knows that results of scientific investigations are seldom exactly the same, but, if the differences are large, it is important to try to figure out why. One reason for following directions carefully and for keeping records of one's work is to provide information on what might have caused the differences.
- Knows that smaller rocks come from the breakage and weathering of bedrock and larger rocks. Soil is made partly from weathered rock, partly from plant remains—and also contains many living organisms.
- Knows that organisms interact with one another in various ways besides providing food. Many plants depend on animals for carrying their pollen to other plants or for dispersing their seeds.
- Knows that over the whole earth, organisms are growing, dying, and decaying, and new organisms are being produced by the old ones.
- Understands that graphs, diagrams, and sketches can be used to represent objects, events and processes in the real world, although such representations can never be exact in every detail.
- Understands that things change in steady, repetitive, or irregular ways—or sometimes in more than one way at the same time. Often the best way to tell which kinds of changes are happening is to make a table or graph of measurements.

Descriptor: Effectively uses science process skills

- Keeps a notebook that describes observations made, carefully distinguishes actual observations from ideas and speculations about what was observed, and is understandable weeks or months later.
- Makes sketches to aid in [describing observations and] explaining procedures or ideas.
- Uses numerical data in describing and comparing objects and events.

Descriptor: Actively contributes to one's own learning and the learning community during science

- Willing to share reasons for findings and consider reasons suggested by others.
- Shares and takes turn in teams.
- Listens when others talk.
- Asks questions to help understand someone else's ideas.
- Willing to discuss multiple ideas before selecting one.
- Refrains from putting-down classmates.
- Works collaboratively and responsibly with team members.