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WHAT IS MYSTERY SCIENCE?



- Being “curious” is the framework
 - Prepares learners to think critically, which in turn prepares them for the unknown jobs that await them in the future.
- Each lesson starts with a question to spark learner’s curiosity about science and ends with an inquiry based activity
- Answering learner questions **forward** rather than **backward**
 - Engagement by starting with how an answer was determined prior to telling the actual answer
 - Direct experience that leads to answer of the question at hand

WHY MYSTERY SCIENCE

In addition to the reasons previously listed, teachers identified the need for a more engaging, complete science program to support our students. Through collaboration and research, staff members discovered that not only does Mystery Science positively impact our youngest learners, it enabled us to seamlessly prepare for the shift in the NYS Science Investigation for the 2023/2024 school year.

Activity Prep

 [Print Prep](#)

In this lesson, students will explore how solid rock breaks apart into smaller pieces through a process called weathering (including root-wedging and ice-wedging). In the activity, Sugar Shake, students use sugar cubes as a model for rocks. They perform an experiment with this model to understand the process of weathering and how this process explains why rocks at the tops of mountains are jagged, while those at the bottom are rounded.

 [Preview activity](#)



Grade 4



Earth's Features & Processes



Weathering & Erosion



4-ESS1-1, 4-ESS2-1

- Inquiry based
- Collapses the curriculum
 - Next Gen Science standards K-5
 - Links to reading nonfiction passages
 - Writing
- Student centered
- Extensions and enrichment opportunities
- Parent communication feature
- Videos in Spanish

Extend this lesson



Reading



Assessments



Video



Activity



Demonstration



Transcripts



Kindergarten

Animal Needs

Plant Needs

Severe Weather

Weather Patterns

Sunlight & Warmth

Pushes & Pulls

1st Grade

Animal Traits & Survival

Plant Traits & Survival

Day Patterns

Night Patterns

Light, Sound, & Communication

2nd Grade

Animal Biodiversity

Plant Adaptations

Erosion & Earth's Surface

Material Properties

Lesson 3



Sunlight & Warmth

K • Why does it get cold in winter? ✓

✂ Lesson + Activity Standards Aligned

Lesson 5



Light, Communication, & Engineering

1st • How could you send a secret message to someone far away?

✂ Lesson + Activity Standards Aligned

Lesson 4



Erosion, Earth's Surface, & Landforms

2nd • What's strong enough to make a canyon?

✂ Lesson + Activity Standards Aligned

3rd Grade

Fossils, Animal Survival, & Heredity

Life Cycles

Plant Life Cycle & Heredity

Weather & Climate

Forces, Motion, & Magnets

4th Grade

Human Body, Vision, & The Brain

Earth's Features & Processes

Sound, Waves, & Communication

Energy, Energy Transfer, & Electrici...

5th Grade

Ecosystems & The Food Web

Water Cycle & Earth's Systems

Stars & The Solar System

Chemical Reactions & Properties O...

Lesson 5



Natural Hazards & Engineering

3rd • How can you keep a house from blowing away in a windstorm?

✂ Lesson + Activity ✓ Standards Aligned

Lesson 2

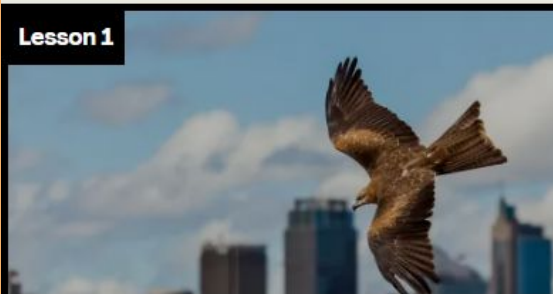


Collisions & Energy Transfer

4th • What makes roller coasters go so fast?

✂ Lesson + Activity ✓ Standards Aligned

Lesson 1



Food Chains, Predators, Herbivores & Carnivores

5th • Why would a hawk move to New York City?

Lesson 3



Weathering & Erosion

4th • Will a mountain last forever?

- Birth of Rocks Unit
 - Earth's Features
 - Weathering & Erosion

[Lesson Homepage](#)

[Lesson Introduction](#)

[Student Activity](#)

[Assessment](#)

OUTCOMES FOR LEARNERS

- Experiential learning
- Collaboration
- Make sense of the world around them
- Engaging (FUN) hands-on experiences
- Connections to literacy
- Common experiences for all K-5 students across the district
- STAY CURIOUS

STUDENT PHOTOS

STUDENT ANECDOTAL