

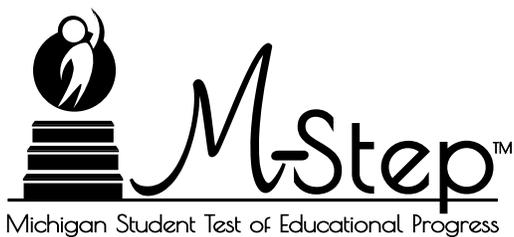
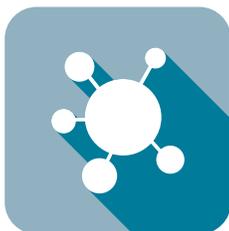
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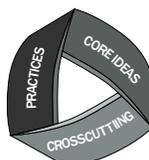
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11th



2018 Science Grades 5, 8, and 11 Annotated Sample Items



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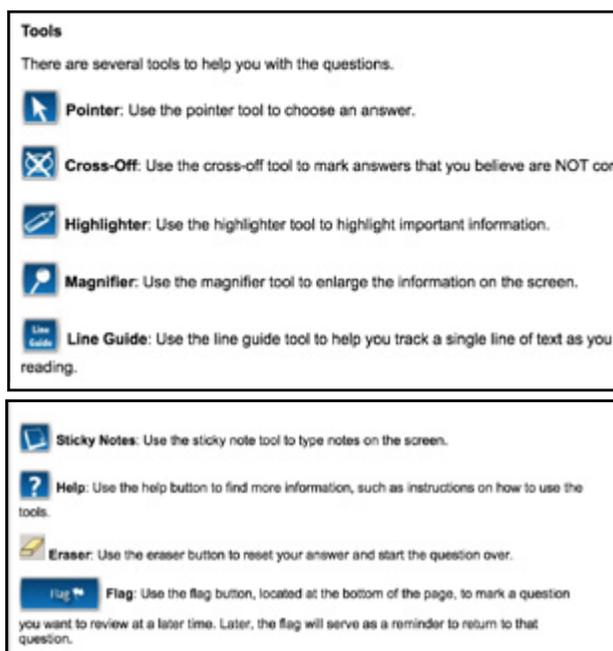
Purpose

The purpose of the M-STEP Science Assessment Annotated Sample Item Set is to introduce students, teachers, and test administrators to the new item cluster format, item types, and to illustrate alignment. This is not a comprehensive sample test and does not represent all the standards that will be assessed on the Science M-STEP. Additionally, the examples within this document have been taken from the **Online Tools Tutorial (OTT)**, which is openly available to the public.

The OTTs can be accessed by using the Chrome browser and going to <https://wbte.drcedirect.com/MI/portals/mi/>. From there, select the “Online Tools Training” underneath MSTEP. The science sample item sets can be found in Grades 5, 8, and 11. The username and password information are given on the login screen.

The test directions presented there explain all the tools and functionality of the online platform. Therefore, you may see icons like those pictured below in this document. However, these tools only relate to online functionality, and their use is not fully discussed in this document.

Online Testing Tools:



This M-STEP Science Assessment Annotated Sample Item Set offers details about the item clusters, student response types, correct responses, and related scoring considerations for the included sample item set. These items have been selected to show some of the new approaches being used to measure the Michigan K-12 Science Standards (MSS) adopted in 2015. The sample item set is fully representative of all current item types included in the field test, and additional samples will be provided over time. The sample item set covers one item cluster and one mini item cluster in grade 5, one item cluster in grade 8, and one item cluster in grade 11. The various item types are not limited to a particular grade level and could appear for any grade.

These item clusters were created during the first round of development. Some people may find aspects that could be improved. The process for item development and vetting is working to ensure that these new types of 2 and 3 dimensional items represent best knowledge and practice possible for large-scale state assessments.

Within this guide, the following terms will be used:

- **Grade Level:** The intended grade level in which the item or item cluster is presented to the student
- **Topic Bundle:** The group of performance expectations (Michigan K-12 Science Standards) that are assessed using the item cluster
- **Science and Engineering Practices (SEP):** Descriptions of behaviors that scientists and engineers engage in as they investigate the natural world and design solutions
- **Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCI):** Most essential ideas in the major science disciplines that all students should understand during their K-12 education

- **Crosscutting Concepts (CCC):** Interdisciplinary skills that unify the study of science and engineering through their common application across fields
- **Dimensions:** The elements that make up the Performance Expectations or standards; each standard has three dimensions including SEP, DCI, and CCC
- **Item Cluster:** A stimulus and a group of 5-8 items designed to assess students integrated science knowledge, skills, and abilities about an entire topic bundle; some stimuli are presented in more than one part throughout cluster
- **Mini Item Cluster:** A stimulus and a group of 2-6 items designed to assess students integrated science knowledge, skills, and abilities about a portion of a topic bundle
- **Stimulus:** A passage with or without pictures, tables, graphs, etc., used to present the phenomenon to the students; stimuli can be one or more than one part
- **Key:** The expected student response or example response from a score point value
- **CR Rubric and Sample Student Responses:** Score point representations for each score point for constructed response items
- **Assessment Claim:** A short description of how students need to integrate their knowledge, skills, and abilities in order to answer the question (e.g., the knowledge-in-use)
- **Hand Scoring and Automated Scoring:** Constructed response items are hand-scored meaning the items are scored by human scorers based on the rubric; technology-enhanced items and multiple-choice items are scored by a machine (Automated Scoring)

Each item is aligned to at least two dimensions (DCI+CCC, SEP+ DCI, SEP+CCC) and some are aligned to three dimensions (DCI+SEP+CCC). The items may have differing degrees of alignment. The sample item set represents some, but not all, possible degrees of alignment to the three dimensions.

Science and Engineering Practices Reference Table

1	Asking Questions and Defining Problems
2	Developing and Using Models
3	Planning and Carrying out Investigations
4	Analyzing and Interpreting Data
5	Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking
6	Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions
7	Engaging in Argument from Evidence
8	Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information

For more information on the Science and Engineering Practices, see [Appendix F of the NGSS](https://www.nextgenscience.org/sites/default/files/Appendix%20F%20%20Science%20and%20Engineering%20Practices%20in%20the%20NGSS%20-%20FINAL%20060513.pdf) (https://www.nextgenscience.org/sites/default/files/Appendix%20F%20%20Science%20and%20Engineering%20Practices%20in%20the%20NGSS%20-%20FINAL%20060513.pdf).

Crosscutting Concepts Reference Table

1	Patterns
2	Cause and Effect
3	Scale, Proportion, and Quantity
4	Systems and System Models
5	Energy and Matter
6	Structure and Function
7	Stability and Change

For more information on the Crosscutting Concepts, see [Appendix G of the NGSS \(https://www.nextgenscience.org/sites/default/files/Appendix%20G%20-%20Crosscutting%20Concepts%20FINAL%20edited%204.10.13.pdf\)](https://www.nextgenscience.org/sites/default/files/Appendix%20G%20-%20Crosscutting%20Concepts%20FINAL%20edited%204.10.13.pdf).

Disciplinary Core Ideas Reference Table

Physical Sciences	
PS1	Matter and its interactions
PS2	Motion and stability: Forces and interactions
PS3	Energy
PS4	Waves and their applications in technologies for information transfer
Life Sciences	
LS1	From molecules to organisms: Structures and processes
LS2	Ecosystems: Interactions and variation of traits
LS3	Heredity: Inheritance and variation of traits
LS4	Biological evolution: Unity and diversity
Earth and Space Sciences	
ESS1	Earth's place in the universe
ESS2	Earth's systems
ESS3	Earth and human activity
Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science	
ETS1	Engineering design
ETS2	Links among engineering, technology, science, and society

For more information on the Disciplinary Core Ideas, see the [Framework \(https://www.nap.edu/read/13165/chapter/2#3\)](https://www.nap.edu/read/13165/chapter/2#3) or [Appendix E of the NGSS \(https://www.nextgenscience.org/sites/default/files/resource/files/AppendixE-ProgressionswithinNGSS-061617.pdf\)](https://www.nextgenscience.org/sites/default/files/resource/files/AppendixE-ProgressionswithinNGSS-061617.pdf).

Key Example 1

Part	Key	Scoring
A: drop-down 1	occurred	*
A: drop-down 2	did	*
B	a	1
Assessment Claim: The students use the data table to determine if a chemical reaction occurred and provide the characteristics of iron that indicate a chemical reaction occurred as evidence.		

Some questions may have more than one part. All parts of the question must be answered correctly to gain one point.

Asterisks indicate that all parts of the question must be answered correctly to receive one point.

Key Example 2

Part	Key	Scoring
A: Initial Iron Atoms (see model on previous page)	4 iron (Fe) atoms	*
A: Oxygen in the Air (see model on previous page)	6 oxygen (O) atoms	1
B	The model can explain a change in color because the model shows atoms recombining to form a new substance. Color change can happen when a new substance is formed.	1
C	One limitation of using this model is (answers may vary but could include: the colors of the atoms don't show the color turning to red; the oxygen atoms are in pairs before the reaction occurs; etc.)	1
<p>Assessment Claim: The students complete a model to show conservation of matter during a chemical reaction. Students then explain how the model shows a property change and the limitations of the model.</p>		

Constructed response items are hand scored by Michigan educators. The scoring rubrics and process take a holistic approach to scoring the items.

The model must be constructed correctly to earn one point. The entire item is worth three points.

Metadata Explanation

Phenomenon: A description of the phenomenon or problem presented in the item cluster.								
Stimulus or Item Part	Brief Description	Item Type	DCI	SEP	CCC	Points	Estimated Time (min)	Hand or Automated Scoring
Stimulus Part 1	Stimulus Description	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	#	
1	Item Part Description	MC / CR / TE	PS4.B	n/a	2	1	#	A
2a & 2b	Item Part Description & Item Part Description	MC / CR / TE & MC / CR / TE	LS1.D	7	2	1	#	A
Total			#/#	#/#	#/#	#	#	

Indicates a multiple part item. All parts of the multipart items assess the dimensions shown.

Totals in the DCI, SEP and CCC column refer to the number of elements assessed by the item cluster versus the number of elements in the topic bundle.

Shows the DCI assessed in the item. To look up the code go to the [Framework \(https://www.nap.edu/read/13165/chapter/1\)](https://www.nap.edu/read/13165/chapter/1). The specific DCI elements are not specified in this document.

Shows the SEP assessed in the item. To look up the code, see page 5.

Shows the CCC assessed in the item. To look up the code, see page 5.

Grade 5 SAMPLE ITEM CLUSTER: Lights Out!

Topic Bundle: Structure, Function and Information Processing Standards*

4. Structure, Function, and Information Processing		
4. Structure, Function, and Information Processing		
Students who demonstrate understanding can:		
<p>4-PS4-2. Develop a model to describe that light reflecting from objects and entering the eye allows objects to be seen. [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include knowledge of specific colors reflected and seen, the cellular mechanisms of vision, or how the retina works.]</p> <p>4-LS1-1. Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction. [Clarification Statement: Examples of structures could include thorns, stems, roots, colored petals, heart, stomach, lung, brain, and skin.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to macroscopic structures within plant and animal systems.]</p> <p>4-LS1-2. Use a model to describe that animals receive different types of information through their senses, process the information in their brain, and respond to the information in different ways. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on systems of information transfer.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include the mechanisms by which the brain stores and recalls information or the mechanisms of how sensory receptors function.]</p>		
The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document <i>A Framework for K-12 Science Education</i> :		
Science and Engineering Practices	Disciplinary Core Ideas	Crosscutting Concepts
<p>Developing and Using Models Modeling in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to building and revising simple models and using models to represent events and design solutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a model to describe phenomena. (4-PS4-2) Use a model to test interactions concerning the functioning of a natural system. (4-LS1-2) <p>Engaging in Argument from Evidence Engaging in argument from evidence in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to critiquing the scientific explanations or solutions proposed by peers by citing relevant evidence about the natural and designed world(s).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct an argument with evidence, data, and/or a model. (4-LS1-1) 	<p>PS4.B: Electromagnetic Radiation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An object can be seen when light reflected from its surface enters the eyes. (4-PS4-2) <p>LS1.A: Structure and Function</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plants and animals have both internal and external structures that serve various functions in growth, survival, behavior, and reproduction. (4-LS1-1) <p>LS1.D: Information Processing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different sense receptors are specialized for particular kinds of information, which may be then processed by the animal's brain. Animals are able to use their perceptions and memories to guide their actions. (4-LS1-2) 	<p>Cause and Effect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified. (4-PS4-2) <p>Systems and System Models</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A system can be described in terms of its components and their interactions. (4-LS1-1), (LS1-2)

Item alignment for SEPs and CCCs does **not** require that the item aligns directly with the element (bullet) displayed in the foundation boxes but can align with **any** appropriate element listed as part of the SEP or CCC in Appendices F and G of the Next Generation Science Standards.

Item alignment for DCIs requires that the item aligns directly with the element (bullet) displayed in the foundation boxes.

*[Document link](https://www.nextgenscience.org/topic-arrangement/4structure-function-and-information-processing): <https://www.nextgenscience.org/topic-arrangement/4structure-function-and-information-processing>

Grade 5 Sample Item Cluster: Lights Out!, Metadata Table

Phenomenon: Human’s ability to see in varying levels of light								
Stimulus or Item Part	Brief Description	Item Type	DCI	SEP	CCC	Points	Estimated Time (min)	Hand or Automated Scoring
Stimulus Part 1	The lights go out in a classroom	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	n/a
1	Explain ability to see	Multiple Choice	PS4.B	n/a	2	1	1	A
2	Explain how eyes process light	Multiple Choice	LS1.D	n/a	2	1	1	A
3	Complete path of light model	Drag and Drop	PS4.B & LS1.D	2	4	1	2	A
Stimulus Part 2	Eyes as specialized structures	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	n/a
4a & 4b	Predict change based on data & Explain prediction based on data	Multiple Select & Multiple Choice	LS1.A	7	2	1	2	A
5	Explain effect of light on pupils	Drag and Drop	LS1.A	7	2	1	3	A
Total			3/3	2/2	2/2	5	13	

The DCI, SEP, and CCC totals refer to the number of the dimensions assessed in the item cluster compared to the number presented in the topic bundle.

Grade 5 Sample Item Cluster: Lights Out!

Grade 5 Science
Training Student

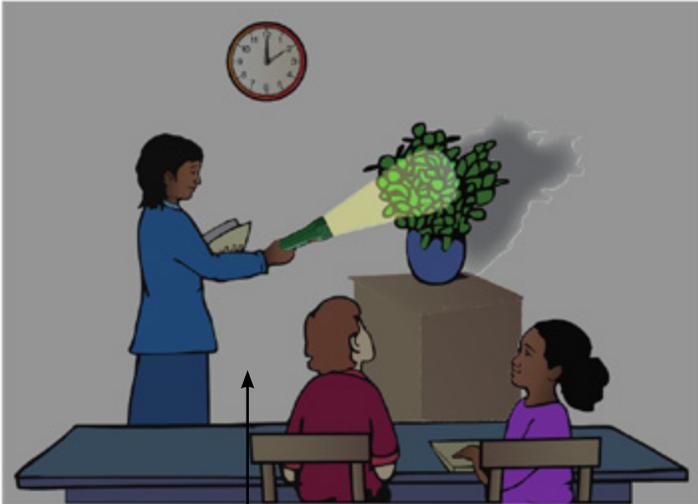
Question 1

?

Lights Out! (Part 1)

Students are learning about eyes in science class. During their class discussion, a power outage occurs and the lights go out in the classroom. While the teacher looks for a flashlight, one student exclaims, "I can't see anything!"

The teacher turns on a flashlight and points it across the classroom to a plant on a table. The teacher says, "This makes me wonder how we are able to see the plant."



Which statement **best** describes how the students are able to see the plant?

- (a) Once the plant produces its own light, the students can observe the plant.
- (b) Once the plant absorbs all the light from the flashlight, the students can observe the plant.
- (c) The light from the flashlight is reflected toward the students' eyes and then back to the plant.
- (d) The light from the flashlight is reflected off of the plant and then enters the students' eyes.

After answering the question, the student selects Next.

Review/End Test

Pause

Flag

Next

Stimulus introduces the phenomenon and remains on the left side of the screen as the items change on the right side of the screen. The student may need to scroll down to read the entire stimulus.

Part	Key	Scoring
NA	d	1
<p>Assessment Claim: The student uses cause and effect rationale to select the correct path of light.</p>		

Grade 5 Sample Item Cluster: Lights Out!

Grade 5 Science
Training Student

Question 2

?

Lights Out! (Part 1)

Students are learning about eyes in science class. During their class discussion, a power outage occurs and the lights go out in the classroom. While the teacher looks for a flashlight, one student exclaims, "I can't see anything!"

The teacher turns on a flashlight and points it across the classroom to a plant on a table. The teacher says, "This makes me wonder how we are able to see the plant."

Eyes collect information about the world in the form of light. Which statement **best** describes how this information is processed?

- (a) Light from the eyes is sent directly to the brain to be processed.
- (b) Light is processed in the eyes, allowing the object to be seen immediately.
- (c) The eyes reflect light back to the object as the information about the object is processed.
- (d) The eyes have structures that sense light, and then the information is sent to the brain to be processed.

The student can navigate backward or move forward throughout the item cluster.

Review/End Test

Pause

Flag

Back

Next

Part	Key	Scoring
NA	d	1
<p>Assessment Claim: The student uses cause and effect rationale to select the correct information processing description.</p>		

Science

12

Grade 5 Sample Item Cluster: Lights Out!

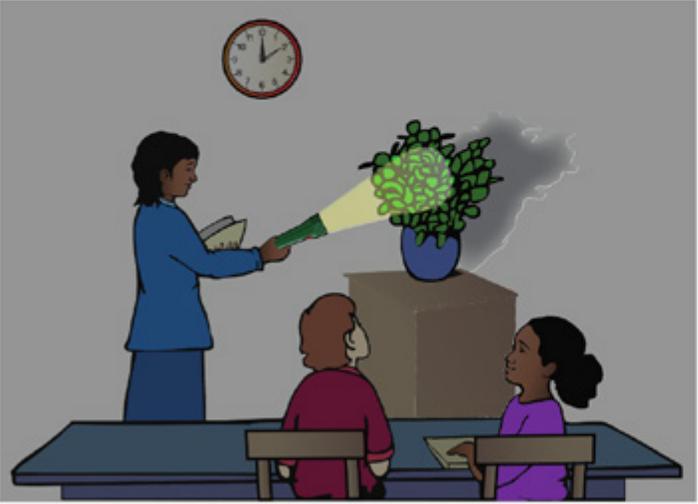
Grade 5 Science
Training Student

Question 3?

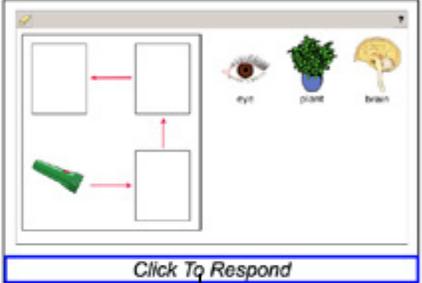
Lights Out! (Part 1)

Students are learning about eyes in science class. During their class discussion, a power outage occurs and the lights go out in the classroom. While the teacher looks for a flashlight, one student exclaims, "I can't see anything!"

The teacher turns on a flashlight and points it across the classroom to a plant on a table. The teacher says, "This makes me wonder how we are able to see the plant."



Drag each picture into the model to complete the path that light and information follow to allow the plant to be seen.



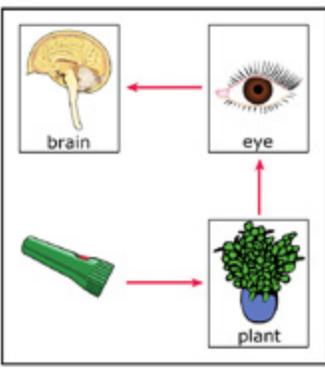
Click To Respond

Review/End Test
Pause
Flag

Back
Next

Part (path box)	Key	Scoring
first box	plant	*
next box	eye	*
last box	brain	1

Assessment Claim: The student uses the components of the given system to model the path of light information.



OK

The "Click to Respond" feature allows for a larger response space in which students can model ideas. The student moves the images on the right into the model to respond to the prompt.

Grade 5 Sample Item Cluster: Lights Out!

Grade 5 Science
Training Student

Question 4?

Lights Out! (Part 2)

Human eyes have specialized structures to help people see. One of these structures is the pupil. The pupil is the dark center opening in the middle of the eye.

The size of a pupil can be measured by its diameter. A scientist shines different amounts of light on a pupil and measures the diameter of the pupil. The graph shows the data collected by the scientist.

Effect of Light on Pupil

Amount of Light	Diameter (mm)
Low	7.5
Low-Medium	7.0
Medium	5.0
Medium-High	3.0
High	2.0

More Text Below

This question has two parts.

Part A: After a while, the lights come back on in the classroom. How will the students' pupils **most likely** change?

- (a) The students' pupil diameters will increase.
- (b) The students' pupil diameters will decrease.

Part B: Which statement **best** explains the change in pupil diameter described in Part A?

- (a) Pupil diameter increases when there is low light.
- (b) Pupil diameter increases when there is bright light.
- (c) Pupil diameter decreases when there is low light.
- (d) Pupil diameter decreases when there is bright light.

Review/End Test
Pause
Flag

Back Next

The stimulus on the left side of the screen changes to introduce new information regarding the phenomenon. The student can go back to previous stimuli at any time.

Both parts of the question must be answered correctly for the student to receive 1 point.

Part	Key	Scoring
A	b	*
B	d	1

Assessment Claim: The student chooses a claim portion of an argument regarding effect of light on a pupil and supports the argument using the data given.

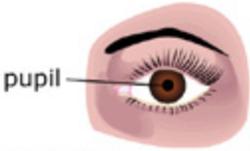
Grade 5 Sample Item Cluster: Lights Out!

Grade 5 Science Training Student

Question 5 ?

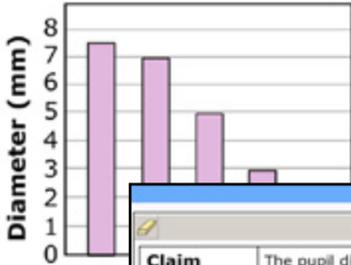
Lights Out! (Part 2)

Human eyes have specialized structures to help people see. One of these structures is the pupil. The pupil is the dark center opening in the middle of the eye.



The size of a pupil can be measured by its diameter. A scientist shines different amounts of light on a pupil and measures the diameter of the pupil. The graph shows the data collected by the scientist.

Effect of Light on Pupil



Based on all of the information, complete the scientific explanation about the effect of light on pupil diameter.

Drag into the chart **two** evidence statements and **one** reasoning statement that support the claim for the effect of light on pupil diameter.

Claim The pupil diameter changes with different amounts of light.

Evidence

Reasoning

Evidence Statements

The diameter was largest in the lowest light and smallest in the brightest light.

The diameter was largest in the brightest light and smallest in the lowest light.

The diameter of the pupil increased as the light increased.

The diameter of the pupil decreased as the light increased.

Reasoning Statements

When there is less light, the pupil gets bigger to let in more light.

When the pupil is smaller, it lets in more light so a person can see better in less light.

When there is bright light, the pupil lets in more light so a person can see better.

Click To Respond

Claim The pupil diameter changes with different amounts of light.

Evidence

The diameter was largest in the lowest light and smallest in the brightest light.

The diameter of the pupil decreased as the light increased.

Reasoning When there is less light, the pupil gets bigger to let in more light.

Evidence Statements

The diameter was largest in the brightest light and smallest in the lowest light.

The diameter of the pupil increased as the light increased.

Reasoning Statements

When the pupil is smaller, it lets in more light so a person can see better in less light.

When there is bright light, the pupil lets in more light so a person can see better.

The student selects and moves sentences from the evidence statements and reasoning statements into the empty table cells to respond to the prompt. **Note:** it is possible to put evidence statements in the reasoning answer area and *vice versa*.

Part	Key	Scoring
Evidence	The diameter was largest in the lowest light and smallest in the brightest light.	*
Evidence	The diameter of the pupil decreased as the light increased.	*
Reasoning	Where there is less light, the pupil gets bigger to let in more light.	1
<p>Assessment Claim: The student builds an argument using the evidence and reasoning provided about how pupils react to different amounts of light.</p>		

**Grade 5 SAMPLE MINI ITEM CLUSTER: Grasshoppers
Topic Bundle; Inheritance and Variation of Traits:
Life Cycles and Traits Standards***

3.Inheritance and Variation of Traits: Life Cycles and Traits		
3.Inheritance and Variation of Traits: Life Cycles and Traits		
Students who demonstrate understanding can:		
<p>3-LS1-1. Develop models to describe that organisms have unique and diverse life cycles but all have in common birth, growth, reproduction, and death. [Clarification Statement: Changes organisms go through during their life form a pattern.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment of plant life cycles is limited to those of flowering plants. Assessment does not include details of human reproduction.]</p> <p>3-LS3-1. Analyze and interpret data to provide evidence that plants and animals have traits inherited from parents and that variation of these traits exists in a group of similar organisms. [Clarification Statement: Patterns are the similarities and differences in traits shared between offspring and their parents, or among siblings. Emphasis is on organisms other than humans.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include genetic mechanisms of inheritance and prediction of traits. Assessment is limited to non-human examples.]</p> <p>3-LS3-2. Use evidence to support the explanation that traits can be influenced by the environment. [Clarification Statement: Examples of the environment affecting a trait could include normally tall plants grown with insufficient water are stunted; and, a pet dog that is given too much food and little exercise may become overweight.]</p> <p>3-LS4-2. Use evidence to construct an explanation for how the variations in characteristics among individuals of the same species may provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing. [Clarification Statement: Examples of cause and effect relationships could be plants that have larger thorns than other plants may be less likely to be eaten by predators; and, animals that have better camouflage coloration than other animals may be more likely to survive and therefore more likely to leave offspring.]</p> <p>The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document <i>A Framework for K-12 Science Education</i>:</p>		
Science and Engineering Practices	Disciplinary Core Ideas	Crosscutting Concepts
<p>Developing and Using Models Modeling in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to building and revising simple models and using models to represent events and design solutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop models to describe phenomena. (3-LS1-1) <p>Analyzing and Interpreting Data Analyzing data in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to introducing quantitative approaches to collecting data and conducting multiple trials of qualitative observations. When possible and feasible, digital tools should be used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze and interpret data to make sense of phenomena using logical reasoning. (3-LS3-1) <p>Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to the use of evidence in constructing explanations that specify variables that describe and predict phenomena and in designing multiple solutions to design problems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use evidence (e.g., observations, patterns) to support an explanation. (3-LS3-2) Use evidence (e.g., observations, patterns) to construct an explanation. (3-LS4-2) <p style="text-align: center;">----- <i>Connections to Nature of Science</i> -----</p> <p>Scientific Knowledge is Based on Empirical Evidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science findings are based on recognizing patterns. (3-LS1-1) 	<p>LS1.B: Growth and Development of Organisms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reproduction is essential to the continued existence of every kind of organism. Plants and animals have unique and diverse life cycles. (3-LS1-1) <p>LS3.A: Inheritance of Traits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many characteristics of organisms are inherited from their parents. (3-LS3-1) Other characteristics result from individuals’ interactions with the environment, which can range from diet to learning. Many characteristics involve both inheritance and environment. (3-LS3-2) <p>LS3.B: Variation of Traits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different organisms vary in how they look and function because they have different inherited information. (3-LS3-1) The environment also affects the traits that an organism develops. (3-LS3-2) <p>LS4.B: Natural Selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sometimes the differences in characteristics between individuals of the same species provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing. (3-LS4-2) 	<p>Patterns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similarities and differences in patterns can be used to sort and classify natural phenomena. (3-LS3-1) Patterns of change can be used to make predictions. (3-LS1-1) <p>Cause and Effect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified and used to explain change. (3-LS3-2),(3-LS4-2)

Mini item clusters are designed to address particular dimensions within a topic bundle, not the whole topic bundle.

*[Document link](https://www.nextgenscience.org/topic-arrangement/3inheritance-and-variation-traits-life-cycles-and-traits): <https://www.nextgenscience.org/topic-arrangement/3inheritance-and-variation-traits-life-cycles-and-traits>

Grade 5 Sample Mini Item Cluster: Grasshoppers, Metadata Table

Phenomenon: Various organisms exist in the same ecosystem but are different								
Stimulus or Item Part	Brief Description	Item Type	DCI	SEP	CCC	Points	Estimated Time (min)	Hand or Automated Scoring
Stimulus Part 1	Several organisms live in the same ecosystem	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	n/a
6	Compare life cycles	Matching	LS1.B	2	1	1	1	A
7a & 7b	Predict offspring of parents & Determine similar traits in a species	Multiple Select & Multiple Select	LS3.A	6	1	1	2	A
8	Effect of ecosystem on population	Drag and Drop	LS1.B	2	2	1	2	A
Stimulus Part 2	Environment and grass plants	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	n/a
9a & 9b	Determine relevant variable to support claim & Display data to support claim	Hot Text & Graphing	LS3.B	4	2	1	1	A
Total			3/6	3/3	2/2	5	10	

The DCI, SEP, and CCC totals refer to the number of the dimensions assessed in the item cluster compared to the number presented in the topic bundle.

Grade 5 Sample Mini Item Cluster: Grasshoppers

Grade 5 Science
Training Student

Question 6

?

Grasshoppers (Part 1)

Students are studying the ecosystem of three organisms: a darkling beetle, a grasshopper, and a grass plant. Grasshoppers and darkling beetles eat grasses. The ecosystem gets different amounts of rain based on the seasons.

Life Cycle of a Darkling Beetle

Life Cycle of a Grass Plant

Life Cycle of a Grasshopper

Enlarge

Based on the models, complete the chart to identify the similarities and differences between the life cycle stages of the organisms.

	Similar Between All Three Organisms	Different Between the Three Organisms
organisms grow	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
reproduction occurs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
number of life cycle stages	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
adults look like their young	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The student selects the boxes to show the correct matched between the rows and columns of the table.

Review/End Test
Pause
Flag

Back
Next

Part	Key	Scoring
organisms grow	Similar	*
reproduction occurs	Similar	*
number of life cycle stages	Different	*
adults look like their young	Different	1

Assessment Claim: The student uses the models to see patterns relating the similarities and differences in organisms' life cycles.

Grade 5 Sample Mini Item Cluster: Grasshoppers

Grade 5 Science **Training Student**

Question 7 ?
Page 1 of 2

Grasshoppers (Part 1)

Students are studying the ecosystem of three organisms: a darkling beetle, a grasshopper, and a grass plant. Grasshoppers and darkling beetles eat grasses. The ecosystem gets different amounts of rain based on the seasons.

Life Cycle of a Darkling Beetle

Life Cycle of a Grass Plant

Life Cycle of a Grasshopper

[Enlarge](#)

This question has two parts.

The students are given a container with an adult grasshopper and two insects in their young stages.

[Enlarge](#)

Part A: Which insect is **most likely to be the offspring of the parent grasshopper?**

(a) Insect 1

(b) Insect 2

Parent Grasshopper

Insect 1

Insect 2

Next

Life Cycle of a Darkling Beetle

Life Cycle of a Grass Plant

Life Cycle of a Grasshopper

When graphics are enlarged they can overlap. The student can move the enlarged boxes around by selecting and holding on the blue bar at the top and moving the box.

Grade 5 Sample Mini Item Cluster: Grasshoppers

Grade 5 Science
Training Student

Question 7
Page 2 of 2?

Grasshoppers (Part 1)

Students are studying the ecosystem of three organisms: a darkling beetle, a grasshopper, and a grass plant. Grasshoppers and darkling beetles eat grasses. The ecosystem gets different amounts of rain based on the seasons.

Life Cycle of a Darkling Beetle

Life Cycle of a Grass Plant

Life Cycle of a Grasshopper

Enlarge

This question has two parts.

The students are given a container with an adult grasshopper and two insects in their young stages.

Part B: Select **two** evidence statements that support your answer to Part A.

- (a) The parent and the offspring have the same body colors.
- (b) The parent and the offspring have different body colors from each other.
- (c) The parent and the offspring have the same leg shape.
- (d) The parent and the offspring have different leg shapes.
- (e) The parent and the offspring have the same length of antennae.
- (f) The parent and the offspring have different length of antennae.

Review/End Test
Pause
Flag

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Part	Key	Scoring
A	b	*
B	a and c	1

Assessment Claim: The student claims which offspring is most like a parent and selects two pieces of evidence to support the claim.

Grade 5 Sample Mini Item Cluster: Grasshoppers

Grade 5 Science
Training Student

Question 8?

Grasshoppers (Part 1)

Students are studying the ecosystem of three organisms: a darkling beetle, a grasshopper, and a grass plant. Grasshoppers and darkling beetles eat grasses. The ecosystem gets different amounts of rain based on the seasons.

Life Cycle of a Darkling Beetle

Life Cycle of a Grass Plant

Life Cycle of a Grasshopper

[Enlarge](#)

Grasshopper eggs must remain moist to survive. When very little rainfall occurs in the ecosystem, how might the population of grasshoppers be affected?

Select and move the sequence of events from the list of possible events into the graphic organizer.

Possible Events

- less reproduction
- more reproduction
- more young grasshoppers survive
- fewer young grasshoppers survive
- more grasshoppers become adults
- fewer grasshoppers become adults

[Click To Respond](#)

Possible Events

Many eggs are destroyed

↓

fewer young grasshoppers survive

↓

fewer grasshoppers become adults

↓

less reproduction

[OK](#)

[Review/End Test](#)
[Pause](#)

[Back](#)
[Next](#)

Part (events)	Key	Scoring
first event	fewer young grasshoppers survive	*
next event	fewer grasshoppers become adults	*
last event	less reproduction	1

Assessment Claim: The student models the effect of the amount of rainfall in an environment on the grasshopper population.

Grade 5 Sample Mini Item Cluster: Grasshoppers

Grade 5 Science **Training Student**

Question 9

Grasshoppers (Part 2)

A student wants to know if the traits of the grass plants eaten by the grasshoppers are affected by the environment. The student sets up an investigation using the procedure shown to collect data.

Investigation Procedure

1. Fill two containers with 300 grams of soil.
2. Place a grass plant into each container.
3. Set the containers near a window.
4. Measure the height of each grass plant on day 1.
5. Water the plants every 5 days.
6. Measure the height of each grass plant on day 15.

This question has two parts.

After the investigation the student makes the following claim: Plants are affected by the amount of water in their environment.

Graph the data to show the evidence that **best** supports the student's claim.

Part A: Select the correct label that would replace the question mark on the left side of the graph.

Part B: Make your bar graph on the grid below. Use the pointer tool to set the height of each bar in your graph.

	Plant Height on Day 1 (cm)	Plant Height on Day 15 (cm)	Number of Leaves on Day 1	Number of Leaves on Day 15	Total Amount of Water Given (mL)
Plant A	3	8	2	2	3
Plant B	3	14	2	2	30

Plant Height (cm) or Number of Leaves

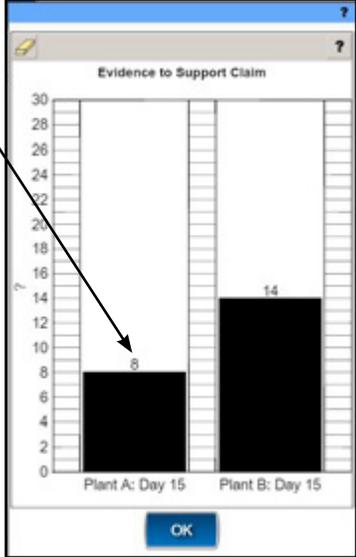
Evidence to Support Claim

Review/End Test Pause Back Next

The student first selects the proper label for the y-axis by selecting the text.

Then the student moves the bars to indicate the height of the plants.

	Plant Height on Day 1 (cm)	Plant Height on Day 15 (cm)	Number of Leaves on Day 1	Number of Leaves on Day 15	Total Amount of Water Given (mL)
Plant A	3	8	2	2	3
Plant B	3	14	2	2	30



Part	Key	Scoring
A	Plant Height (cm)	*
B	8 and 14	1

Assessment Claim: Using the provided data, the student presents the data in graphical form to support the claim that plants are affected by the water in the environment.

Grade 8 SAMPLE ITEM CLUSTER: Handwarmers

Topic Bundle: Chemical Reactions Standards*

MS.Chemical Reactions		
MS.Chemical Reactions		
Students who demonstrate understanding can:		
MS-PS1-2. Analyze and interpret data on the properties of substances before and after the substances interact to determine if a chemical reaction has occurred. [Clarification Statement: Examples of reactions could include burning sugar or steel wool, fat reacting with sodium hydroxide, and mixing zinc with hydrogen chloride.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to analysis of the following properties: density, melting point, boiling point, solubility, flammability, and odor.]		
MS-PS1-5. Develop and use a model to describe how the total number of atoms does not change in a chemical reaction and thus mass is conserved. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on law of conservation of matter and on physical models or drawings, including digital forms, that represent atoms.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include the use of atomic masses, balancing symbolic equations, or intermolecular forces.]		
MS-PS1-6. Undertake a design project to construct, test, and modify a device that either releases or absorbs thermal energy by chemical processes.* [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the design, controlling the transfer of energy to the environment, and modification of a device using factors such as type and concentration of a substance. Examples of designs could involve chemical reactions such as dissolving ammonium chloride or calcium chloride.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to the criteria of amount, time, and temperature of substance in testing the device.]		
The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document <i>A Framework for K-12 Science Education</i> :		
Science and Engineering Practices	Disciplinary Core Ideas	Crosscutting Concepts
<p>Developing and Using Models Modeling in 6–8 builds on K–5 and progresses to developing, using and revising models to describe, test, and predict more abstract phenomena and design systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a model to describe unobservable mechanisms. (MS-PS1-5) <p>Analyzing and Interpreting Data Analyzing data in 6–8 builds on K–5 and progresses to extending quantitative analysis to investigations, distinguishing between correlation and causation, and basic statistical techniques of data and error analysis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze and interpret data to determine similarities and differences in findings. (MS-PS1-2) <p>Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to include constructing explanations and designing solutions supported by multiple sources of evidence consistent with scientific knowledge, principles, and theories.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a design project, engaging in the design cycle, to construct and/or implement a solution that meets specific design criteria and constraints. (MS-PS1-6) <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Connections to Nature of Science</p> <p>Scientific Knowledge is Based on Empirical Evidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science knowledge is based upon logical and conceptual connections between evidence and explanations. (MS-PS1-2) <p>Science Models, Laws, Mechanisms, and Theories Explain Natural Phenomena</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laws are regularities or mathematical descriptions of natural phenomena. (MS-PS1-5) 	<p>PS1.A: Structure and Properties of Matter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each pure substance has characteristic physical and chemical properties (for any bulk quantity under given conditions) that can be used to identify it. (MS-PS1-2) <i>(Note: This Disciplinary Core Idea is also addressed by MS-PS1-3.)</i> <p>PS1.B: Chemical Reactions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substances react chemically in characteristic ways. In a chemical process, the atoms that make up the original substances are regrouped into different molecules, and these new substances have different properties from those of the reactants. (MS-PS1-2),(MS-PS1-5) <i>(Note: This Disciplinary Core Idea is also addressed by MS-PS1-3.)</i> The total number of each type of atom is conserved, and thus the mass does not change. (MS-PS1-5) Some chemical reactions release energy, others store energy. (MS-PS1-6) <p>ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A solution needs to be tested, and then modified on the basis of the test results, in order to improve it. <i>(secondary to MS-PS1-6)</i> <p>ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although one design may not perform the best across all tests, identifying the characteristics of the design that performed the best in each test can provide useful information for the redesign process—that is, some of the characteristics may be incorporated into the new design. <i>(secondary to MS-PS1-6)</i> The iterative process of testing the most promising solutions and modifying what is proposed on the basis of the test results leads to greater refinement and ultimately to an optimal solution. <i>(secondary to MS-PS1-6)</i> 	<p>Patterns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Macroscopic patterns are related to the nature of microscopic and atomic-level structure. (MS-PS1-2) <p>Energy and Matter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matter is conserved because atoms are conserved in physical and chemical processes. (MS-PS1-5) The transfer of energy can be tracked as energy flows through a designed or natural system. (MS-PS1-6)
<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>Item alignment for DCIs requires that the item aligns directly with the element (bullet) displayed in the foundation boxes.</p> </div>		

Item alignment for SEPs and CCCs does **not** require that the item aligns directly with the element (bullet) displayed in the foundation boxes but can align with **any** appropriate element listed as part of the SEP or CCC in Appendices F and G of the Next Generation Science Standards.

*[Document Link](https://www.nextgenscience.org/topic-arrangement/mschemical-reactions): <https://www.nextgenscience.org/topic-arrangement/mschemical-reactions>

Grade 8 Sample Item Cluster: Handwarmers, Metadata Table

Phenomenon: Handwarmers get warm when you open the package								
Stimulus or Item Part	Brief Description	Item Type	DCI	SEP	CCC	Points	Estimated Time (min)	Hand or Automated Scoring
Stimulus Part 1	Introduction of Handwarmers and initial data	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	n/a
1a & 1b	Determine if chemical reaction occurred & Characteristic properties	Drop-Down & Choice	PS1.B & PS1.A	4	1	1	1	A
2	Conservation of mass	Drop-Down	PS1.B	4	5	1	1	A
3a & 3b & 3c	Build a model showing conservation of mass & Explain model & Limitations of model	Drag and Drop & Constructed Response & Constructed Response	PS1.B	2	5	3	4	H
Stimulus Part 2	Handwarmer investigation and data	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	n/a
4	Similarities and differences of two systems	Hot Spot	PS1.B	4	1	1	1	A
5	Explain energy transfer in two systems	Drag and Drop	PS1.B	6	5	1	2	A
6	Evaluate a design solution	Multiple Choice	ETS1.B	6	5	1	1	A
7	Determine trade-offs of design solution	Multiple Choice	ETS1.C	6	n/a	1	1	A
Total			7/7	3/3	2/2	9	15	

The DCI, SEP, and CCC totals at the bottom of the Metadata table refer to the number of the dimensions assessed in the item cluster compared to the number presented in the topic bundle.

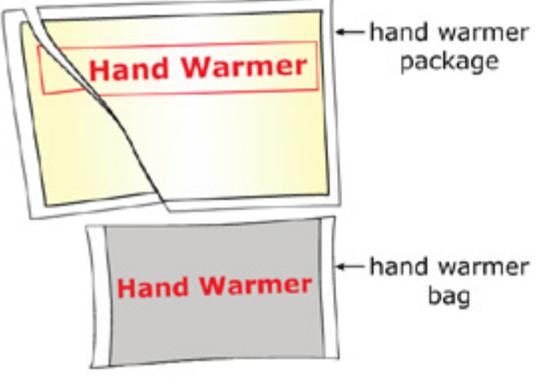
Grade 8 Sample Item Cluster: Handwarmers

Grade 8 Science **Training Student**

Question 1

How do Hand Warmers Work? (Part 1)

Two students are outside in the cold, waiting for a bus. One of the students has a package of hand warmers and offers to share them with the other student. The student opens the package and they each put a hand warmer bag in one of their gloves.



After a few minutes, the students notice that the hand warmer bags start to feel warm. The students want to know how hand warmer bags get warm. They decide to ask their science teacher if they can test the materials inside the hand warmer bags. After reading the ingredients on the hand warmer package, the students decide to focus on Iron because it is the most common ingredient.

The students designed the following procedure.

1. Open a new hand warmer package.
2. Cut open the hand warmer package.

This question has two parts.

Part A: Use the data table to complete the following statement.

The students can tell that a chemical reaction involving iron _____ because a new substance _____ form overnight.

Part B: Choose one set of properties that **best** supports the completed statement in Part A.

- (a) density and color
- (b) color and volume
- (c) volume and texture
- (d) texture and mass
- (e) mass and density

After answering the question, the student selects Next.

The students designed the following procedure.

1. Open a new hand warmer package.
2. Cut open the hand warmer bag.
3. Separate the materials by using a magnet to attract the iron.
4. Place the iron on a dish.
5. Make initial observations and calculations to record properties of the iron.
6. Leave the iron in the dish overnight.
7. Record final observations and calculations the next day.

Iron from Hand Warmer Bag



Hand Warmer Investigation Data

Property/Calculation	Initial	Final
Color	Gray	Red
Texture	Powder	Powder
Mass	21 g	30 g
Volume	2.67 cm ³	5.73 cm ³
Density	7.87 g/cm ³	5.24 g/cm ³

Part	Key	Scoring
A: drop-down 1	occurred	*
A: drop-down 2	did	*
B	a	1

Assessment Claim: The student uses the data table to determine if a chemical reaction occurred and provides the evidence that indicates a chemical reaction occurred.

Stimulus introduces the phenomenon and remains on the left side of the screen as the items change on the right side of the screen. The student scrolls down to read the entire stimulus.

Grade 8 Sample Item Cluster: Handwarmers

Grade 8 Science Training Student

Question 2 ?

2. Cut open the hand warmer. More Text Above

3. Separate the materials by using a magnet to attract the iron.

4. Place the iron on a dish.

5. Make initial observations and calculations to record properties of the iron.

6. Leave the iron in the dish overnight.

7. Record final observations and calculations the next day.

Iron from Hand Warmer Bag



Hand Warmer Investigation Data

Property/Calculation	Initial	Final
Color	Gray	Red
Texture	Powder	Powder
Mass	21 g	30 g
Volume	2.67 cm ³	5.73 cm ³
Density	7.87 g/cm ³	5.24 g/cm ³

Complete the statements below.

The final mass of the material on the dish the next day is the initial mass of the material.

This could happen if the environment.

more than
less than
equal to

iron atoms are escaping into
iron atoms are combining with matter in
iron atoms are being produced and released into
iron atoms are being exchanged in equal amounts with

Review/End Test
Pause
Flag
Back
Next

The student can navigate backward or move forward throughout the entire item cluster.

Part	Key	Scoring
drop-down 1	more than	*
drop-down 2	iron atoms are combining with matter in	1

Assessment Claim: The student uses the data table to compare the initial and final mass of the material and then support their answer with reasoning about how the mass of the material increased overnight.

Grade 8 Sample Item Cluster: Handwarmers

Grade 8 Science Training Student

Question 3 ?
Page 1 of 2

2. Cut open the hand warmer. [More Text Above](#)
3. Separate the materials by using a magnet to attract the iron.
4. Place the iron on a dish.
5. Make initial observations and calculations to record properties of the iron.
6. Leave the iron in the dish overnight.
7. Record final observations and calculations the next day.

Iron from Hand Warmer Bag



Hand Warmer Investigation Data

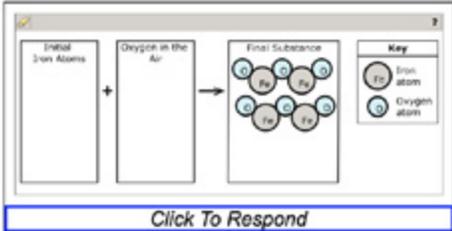
Property/Calculation	Initial	Final
Color	Gray	Red
Texture	Powder	Powder
Mass	21 g	30 g
Volume	2.67 cm ³	5.73 cm ³
Density	7.87 g/cm ³	5.24 g/cm ³

This question has three parts.

The students decide to develop a model to explain why the iron appeared to change overnight. To complete the model the students need to include:

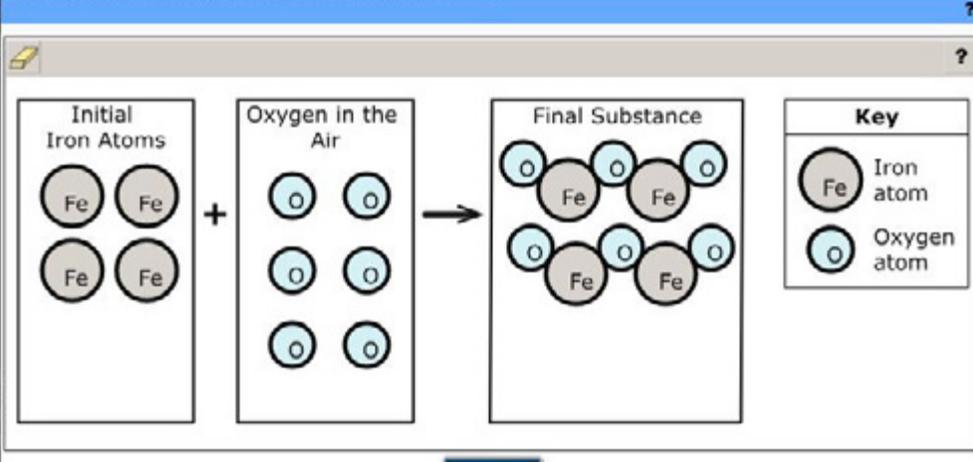
- iron atoms from the hand warmer
- oxygen atoms from the air
- the final substance they observed

Part A: Complete the student model by dragging the appropriate number of atoms from the key into the model.



Click To Respond

Review/End Test Pause Flag Back Next



OK

The student selects "Click to Respond" to enlarge the response window, and then moves atom symbols into the model boxes to respond to the prompt.

Grade 8 Sample Item Cluster: Handwarmers

Grade 8 Science
Training Student

Question 3
Page 2 of 2

?

2. Cut open the hand warmer. More Text Above

3. Separate the materials by using a magnet to attract the iron.

4. Place the iron on a dish.

5. Make initial observations and calculations to record properties of the iron.

6. Leave the iron in the dish overnight.

7. Record final observations and calculations the next day.

Iron from Hand Warmer Bag



Hand Warmer Investigation Data

Property/Calculation	Initial	Final
Color	Gray	Red
Texture	Powder	Powder
Mass	21 g	30 g
Volume	2.67 cm ³	5.73 cm ³
Density	7.87 g/cm ³	5.24 g/cm ³

This question has three parts.

The students decide to develop a model to explain why the iron appeared to change overnight. To complete the model the students need to include:

- iron atoms from the hand warmer
- oxygen atoms from the air
- the final substance they observed

Part B: One student claims the model can explain the change in color.

Describe one way to support the student's claim.

EO

0 / 500

Part C: Describe one limitation to using this model.

EO

0 / 500

Review/End Test
Pause
Flag

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Next

Part	Key	Scoring
A: Initial Iron Atoms (see model on previous page)	4 iron (Fe) atoms	*
A: Oxygen in the Air (see model on previous page)	6 oxygen (O) atoms	1
B	The model can explain a change in color because the model shows atoms recombining to form a new substance. Color change can happen when a new substance is formed.	1
C	One limitation of using this model is (answers may vary but could include): the colors of the atoms don't show the color turning to red; the oxygen atoms are in pairs before the reaction occurs; etc.	1

Assessment Claim: The student completes a model to show conservation of matter during a chemical reaction. The student then explains how the model shows a property change and the limitations of the model.

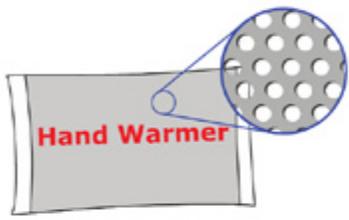
Grade 8 Sample Item Cluster: Handwarmers

Grade 8 Science
Training Student

Question 4?

How do Hand Warmers Work? (Part 2)

After observing what happens with the iron in the hand warmers, the students decide to work on improving the hand warmers to make them get warm faster. The students observe that the hand warmer bag is made of fabric containing tiny holes.



Hand Warmer

They think that if oxygen is needed to produce heat, maybe only a small amount of oxygen is getting through the fabric. To test this, the students design an investigation to record the change in temperature when the hand warmer ingredients are left in the hand warmer bag and when they are taken out of the hand warmer bag. The students set up two systems.

Investigation Plan

1. Open two hand warmer packages. Place one hand warmer bag on a dish labeled System 1.
2. Cut open the other hand warmer bag and pour the materials from inside the bag onto the dish labeled System 2.
3. Place a thermometer under the hand warmer bag in System 1 and a thermometer inside the materials in System 2.
4. Record the temperature of both systems every five minutes until one of the systems nears the starting temperature.

Compare the two sets of data in the graph. Select **two** similarities and **two** differences between System 1 and System 2.

Similarities	Differences
The temperature increases in both systems. The temperature decreases in both systems. The temperature remains constant in both systems.	The temperature of System 1 increases more quickly than the temperature of System 2. The temperature of System 2 increases more quickly than the temperature of System 1. System 1 reaches a greater maximum temperature than System 2 reaches. System 2 reaches a greater maximum temperature than System 1 reaches.

Click To Respond

Review/End Test
Pause
Flag

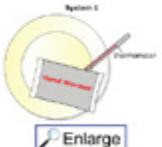
Back
Next

The student scrolls down to read the entire stimulus.

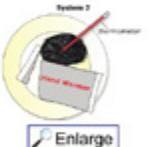
More Text Above

Investigation Plan

1. Open two hand warmer packages. Place one hand warmer bag on a dish labeled System 1.
2. Cut open the other hand warmer bag and pour the materials from inside the bag onto the dish labeled System 2.
3. Place a thermometer under the hand warmer bag in System 1 and a thermometer inside the materials in System 2.
4. Record the temperature of both systems every five minutes until one of the systems nears the starting temperature.



Enlarge



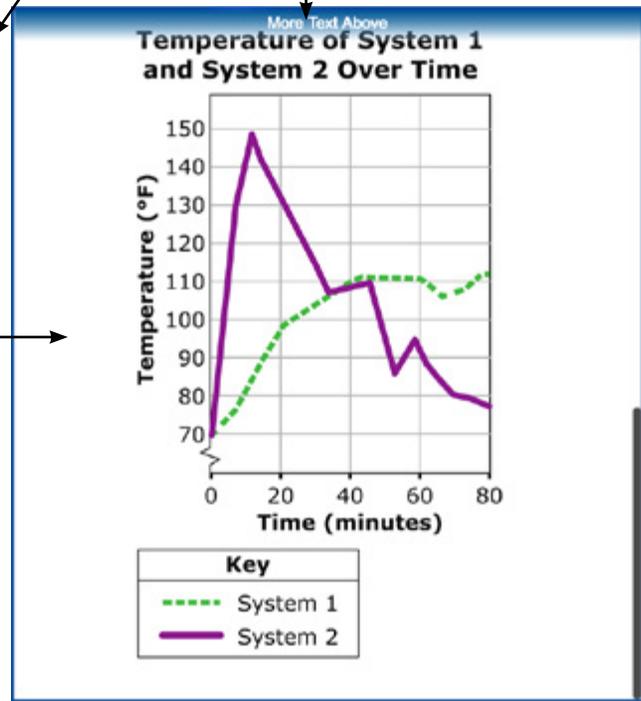
Enlarge

The temperature data from both systems are shown below.

Temperature of System 1 and System 2 Over Time



More Text Below



Grade 8 Sample Item Cluster: Handwarmers

Grade 8 Science
Training Student

Question 4?

How do Hand Warmers Work? (Part 2)

After observing what happens with the iron in the hand warmers, the students decide to work on improving the hand warmers to make them get warm faster. The students observe that the hand warmer bag is made of fabric containing tiny holes.

Hand Warmer

They think that if oxygen is needed to produce heat, maybe only a small amount of oxygen is getting through the fabric. To test this, the students design an investigation to record the change in temperature when the hand warmer ingredients are left in the hand warmer bag and when they are taken out of the hand warmer bag. The students set up two systems.

Investigation Plan

1. Open two hand warmer packages. Place one hand warmer bag on a dish labeled Sys
2. Cut open the oth
3. Place a thermom
4. Record the temp

Compare the two sets of data in the graph. Select **two similarities** and **two differences** between System 1 and System 2.

Similarities	Differences
The temperature increases in both systems. The temperature decreases in both systems. The temperature remains constant in both systems.	The temperature of System 1 increases more quickly than the temperature of System 2. The temperature of System 2 increases more quickly than the temperature of System 1. System 2 reaches a greater maximum temperature than System 1 reaches. System 2 reaches a greater maximum temperature than System 1 reaches.

Click To Respond

?

Similarities	Differences
<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">The temperature increases in both systems.</div> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">The temperature decreases in both systems.</div> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 2px;">The temperature remains constant in both systems.</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">The temperature of System 1 increases more quickly than the temperature of System 2.</div> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">The temperature of System 2 increases more quickly than the temperature of System 1.</div> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">System 1 reaches a greater maximum temperature than System 2 reaches.</div> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 2px;">System 2 reaches a greater maximum temperature than System 1 reaches.</div>

OK

Part	Key	Scoring
Similarities	The temperature increases in both systems.	*
Similarities	The temperature decreases in both systems.	*
Differences	The temperature of System 2 increases more quickly than the temperature of System 1.	*
Differences	System 2 reaches a greater maximum temperature than System 1 reaches.	1
Assessment Claim: The student compares the data for two systems.		

Grade 8 Sample Item Cluster: Handwarmers

Grade 8 Science Training Student

Question 5 ?

More Text Above

Temperature of System 1 and System 2 Over Time

Key	
-----	System 1

Identify and explain the temperature pattern in the graph. Select and move the **best** claim statement, evidence statement, and reasoning statement that can be used to explain the pattern.

Claim	
Evidence	
Reasoning	

Claim Statements:
 Energy is transferred from each system to the thermometers.
 Energy is transferred from the thermometers to each system.
 Energy is not transferred in either of the systems.

Evidence Statements:
 The temperature was higher at 50 minutes than at 0 minutes.
 The temperature was lower at 50 minutes than at 0 minutes.
 The temperature did not change between 0 minutes and 50 minutes in either system.

Reasoning Statements:
 The iron absorbed energy from the oxygen during the chemical reaction.
 The hand warmer bag absorbed energy from the thermometer.
 Energy was released when the iron reacted with the oxygen in the air.
 Energy was released when the hand warmer package was opened.

Click To Respond

Claim	Energy is transferred from each system to the thermometers.
Evidence	The temperature was higher at 50 minutes than at 0 minutes.
Reasoning	Energy was released when the iron reacted with the oxygen in the air.

Claim Statements:
 Energy is transferred from the thermometers to each system.
 Energy is not transferred in either of the systems.

Evidence Statements:
 The temperature was lower at 50 minutes than at 0 minutes.
 The temperature did not change between 0 minutes and 50 minutes in either system.

Reasoning Statements:
 The iron absorbed energy from the oxygen during the chemical reaction.
 The hand warmer bag absorbed energy from the thermometer.
 Energy was released when the hand warmer package was opened.

OK

The student selects and moves sentences from the given statements to the empty table cells to respond to the prompt. **Note:** it is possible to put evidence statements in the reasoning answer area and *vice versa*.

Part	Key	Scoring
Claim	Energy is transferred from each system to the thermometers.	*
Evidence	The temperature was higher at 50 minutes than at 0 minutes.	*
Reasoning	Energy was released when the iron reacted with the oxygen in the air.	1
<p>Assessment Claim: The student constructs a scientific explanation about energy transfer in the system.</p>		

Grade 8 Sample Item Cluster: Handwarmers

Grade 8 Science
Training Student

Question 6?

More Text Above

Temperature of System 1 and System 2 Over Time

Key	
-----	System 1
—————	System 2

The students want to redesign the hand warmer bag to decrease the amount of time it takes for the hand warmer to get warm. The new design includes more small holes in the fabric of the hand warmer bag.

Which statement **best** evaluates if the new design **would** or **would not** work?

- (a) The new design would not work because the additional holes in the bag would allow oxygen from the air to move into the bag and cool the iron.
- (b) The new design would not work because the only way to increase the temperature is to generate more energy by adding iron.
- (c) The new design would work because when the iron in the hand warmer is exposed to more oxygen in the air, the temperature will increase at a faster rate.
- (d) The new design would work because when pieces of iron are able to move out of the additional holes, they will be in contact with more oxygen, which will quickly increase the temperature.

Review/End Test
Pause
Flag

Back
Next

Part	Key	Scoring
NA	c	1
<p>Assessment Claim: The student evaluates a design solution and determines if the design would or would not solve the problem.</p>		

Grade 8 Sample Item Cluster: Handwarmers

Grade 8 Science Training Student

Question 7 ?

More Text Above

Temperature of System 1 and System 2 Over Time

Time (minutes)	System 1 Temperature (°F)	System 2 Temperature (°F)
0	70	70
10	75	130
20	90	145
30	100	120
40	105	110
50	110	85
60	110	95
70	105	80
80	110	75

Key

- System 1
- System 2

Which statement **best** describes a trade-off if a new hand warmer bag is designed to get warm faster than the original design?

- (a) The hand warmer bag would be more expensive than the original design.
- (b) The hand warmer bag would contain more iron and be bigger than the original design.
- (c) The hand warmer bag would not get as warm as the original design.
- (d) The hand warmer bag would cool down faster than the original design.

Review/End Test Pause Flag Back Next

Part	Key	Scoring
NA	d	1
Assessment Claim: The student evaluates a design solution and determines trade-offs of the design solution.		

Grade 11 SAMPLE ITEM CLUSTER: Atmospheric Changes over Time

Topic Bundle: Earth Systems Standards*

HS.Earth's Systems		
HS.Earth's Systems		
Students who demonstrate understanding can:		
<p>HS-ESS2-2. Analyze geoscience data to make the claim that one change to Earth's surface can create feedbacks that cause changes to other Earth systems. [Clarification Statement: Examples should include climate feedbacks, such as how an increase in greenhouse gases causes a rise in global temperatures that melts glacial ice, which reduces the amount of sunlight reflected from Earth's surface, increasing surface temperatures and further reducing the amount of ice. Examples could also be taken from other system interactions, such as how the loss of ground vegetation causes an increase in water runoff and soil erosion; how dammed rivers increase groundwater recharge, decrease sediment transport, and increase coastal erosion; or how the loss of wetlands causes a decrease in local humidity that further reduces the wetland extent.]</p> <p>HS-ESS2-3. Develop a model based on evidence of Earth's interior to describe the cycling of matter by thermal convection. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on both a one-dimensional model of Earth, with radial layers determined by density, and a three-dimensional model, which is controlled by mantle convection and the resulting plate tectonics. Examples of evidence include maps of Earth's three-dimensional structure obtained from seismic waves, records of the rate of change of Earth's magnetic field (as constraints on convection in the outer core), and identification of the composition of Earth's layers from high-pressure laboratory experiments.]</p> <p>HS-ESS2-5. Plan and conduct an investigation of the properties of water and its effects on Earth materials and surface processes. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on mechanical and chemical investigations with water and a variety of solid materials to provide the evidence for connections between the hydrologic cycle and system interactions commonly known as the rock cycle. Examples of mechanical investigations include stream transportation and deposition using a stream table, erosion using variations in soil moisture content, or frost wedging by the expansion of water as it freezes. Examples of chemical investigations include chemical weathering and recrystallization (by testing the solubility of different materials) or melt generation (by examining how water lowers the melting temperature of most solids).]</p> <p>HS-ESS2-6. Develop a quantitative model to describe the cycling of carbon among the hydrosphere, atmosphere, geosphere, and biosphere. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on modeling biogeochemical cycles that include the cycling of carbon through the ocean, atmosphere, soil, and biosphere (including humans), providing the foundation for living organisms.]</p> <p>HS-ESS2-7. Construct an argument based on evidence about the simultaneous coevolution of Earth's systems and life on Earth. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the dynamic causes, effects, and feedbacks between the biosphere and Earth's other systems, whereby geoscience factors control the evolution of life, which in turn continuously alters Earth's surface. Examples include how photosynthetic life altered the atmosphere through the production of oxygen, which in turn increased weathering rates and allowed for the evolution of animal life; how microbial life on land increased the formation of soil, which in turn allowed for the evolution of land plants; or how the evolution of corals created reefs that altered patterns of erosion and deposition along coastlines and provided habitats for the evolution of new life forms.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include a comprehensive understanding of the mechanisms of how the biosphere interacts with all of Earth's other systems.]</p>		
The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document <i>A Framework for K-12 Science Education</i> :		
<p style="text-align: center;">Science and Engineering Practices</p> <p>Developing and Using Models Modeling in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to using, synthesizing, and developing models to predict and show relationships among variables between systems and their components in the natural and designed world(s). • Develop a model based on evidence to illustrate the relationships between systems or between components of a system. (HS-ESS2-3), (HS-ESS2-6)</p> <p>Planning and Carrying Out Investigations Planning and carrying out investigations in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to include investigations that provide evidence for and test conceptual, mathematical, physical, and empirical models. • Plan and conduct an investigation individually and collaboratively to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence, and in the design: decide on types, how much, and accuracy of data needed to produce reliable measurements and consider limitations on the precision of the data (e.g., number of trials, cost, risk, time), and refine the design accordingly. (HS-ESS2-5)</p> <p>Analyzing and Interpreting Data Analyzing data in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to introducing more detailed statistical analysis, the comparison of data sets for consistency, and the use of models to generate and analyze data. • Analyze data using tools, technologies, and/or models (e.g., computational, mathematical) in order to make valid and reliable scientific claims or determine an optimal design solution. (HS-ESS2-2)</p> <p>Engaging in Argument from Evidence Engaging in argument from evidence in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to using appropriate and sufficient evidence and scientific reasoning to defend and critique claims and explanations about the natural and designed world(s). Arguments may also come from current scientific or historical episodes in science. • Construct an oral and written argument or counter-arguments based on data and evidence. (HS-ESS2-7)</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Connections to Nature of Science</i></p> <p>Scientific Knowledge is Based on Empirical Evidence</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Disciplinary Core Ideas</p> <p>ESS2.A: Earth Materials and Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earth's systems, being dynamic and interacting, cause feedback effects that can increase or decrease the original changes (HS-ESS2-2) Evidence from deep probes and seismic waves, reconstructions of historical changes in Earth's surface and its magnetic field, and an understanding of physical and chemical processes lead to a model of Earth with a hot but solid inner core, a liquid outer core, a solid mantle and crust. Motions of the mantle and its plates occur primarily through thermal convection, which involves the cycling of matter due to the outward flow of energy from Earth's interior and gravitational movement of denser materials toward the interior. (HS-ESS2-3) <p>ESS2.B: Plate Tectonics and Large-Scale System Interactions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The radioactive decay of unstable isotopes continually generates new energy within Earth's crust and mantle, providing the primary source of the heat that drives mantle convection. Plate tectonics can be viewed as the surface expression of mantle convection. (HS-ESS2-3) <p>ESS2.C: The Roles of Water in Earth's Surface Processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The abundance of liquid water on Earth's surface and its unique combination of physical and chemical properties are central to the planet's dynamics. These properties include water's exceptional capacity to absorb, store, and release large amounts of energy, transmit sunlight, expand upon freezing, dissolve and transport materials, and lower the viscosities and melting points of rocks. (HS-ESS2-5) <p>ESS2.D: Weather and Climate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The foundation for Earth's global climate systems is the electromagnetic radiation from the sun, as well as its reflection, absorption, storage, and redistribution among the atmosphere, ocean, and land systems, and this energy's re-radiation into space. (HS-ESS2-2) Gradual atmospheric changes were due to plants and other organisms that captured carbon dioxide and released oxygen. (HS-ESS2-6), (HS-ESS2-7) Changes in the atmosphere due to human activity have increased carbon dioxide concentrations and thus affect climate. (HS-ESS2-6) <p>ESS2.E: Biogeology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The many dynamic and delicate feedbacks between the biosphere and other Earth systems cause a continual co- 	<p style="text-align: center;">Crosscutting Concepts</p> <p>Energy and Matter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The total amount of energy and matter in closed systems is conserved. (HS-ESS2-6) Energy drives the cycling of matter within and between systems. (HS-ESS2-3) <p>Structure and Function</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The functions and properties of natural and designed objects and systems can be inferred from their overall structure, the way their components are shaped and used, and the molecular substructures of its various materials. (HS-ESS2-5) <p>Stability and Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Much of science deals with constructing explanations of how things change and how they remain stable. (HS-ESS2-7) Feedback (negative or positive) can stabilize or destabilize a system. (HS-ESS2-2) <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Connections to Engineering, Technology and Applications of Science</i></p> <p>Interdependent Engineering and Influence of Science on World</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science at each other research, R&D projects, engineers of expertise New technologies impacts on environment, including some that were not anticipated. Analysis of costs and benefits is a critical aspect of decisions

Item alignment for DCIs requires that the item aligns directly with the element (bullet) displayed in the foundation boxes.

Item alignment for SEPs and CCCs does **not** require that the item aligns directly with the element (bullet) displayed in the foundation boxes but can align with **any** appropriate element listed as part of the SEP or CCC in Appendices F and G of the Next Generation Science Standards.

*NGSS Appendices (<https://www.nextgenscience.org/resources/ngss-appendices>)

Grade 11 Sample Item Cluster: Atmospheric Changes, Metadata Table

Phenomenon: Changes in carbon in atmosphere								
Stimulus or Item Part	Brief Description	Item Type	DCI	SEP	CCC	Points	Estimated Time (min)	Hand or Automated Scoring
Stimulus Part 1	Carbon cycle model	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	n/a
1	Process to decrease CO ₂ in atmosphere	Multiple Select	ESS2.A	2	7	1	1	A
2	CO ₂ concentrations over time	Drop-Down	ESS2.D	4	7	1	1	A
3	Changes in the atmosphere from early history	Drop-Down	ESS2.D	4	7	1	1	A
Stimulus Part 2	Solar radiation investigation	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	n/a
4a & 4b	Energy transfer in systems	Multiple Choice & Drop-Down	ESS2.C	3	5	1	2	A
5	Modify the investigation	Drag and Drop	ESS2.C	3	5	1	2	A
6	Sea ice and solar radiation absorption	Hot Spot	ESS2.D	4	7	1	1	A
7a & 7b	Atmosphere changes effect on polar bears	Drag and Drop & Constructed Response	ESS2.D & ESS2.E	7	7	3	3	H
Total			5/9	4/4	2/3	9	15	

The DCI, SEP, and CCC totals refer to the number of the dimensions assessed in the item cluster compared to the number presented in the topic bundle.

Grade 11 Sample Item Cluster: Atmospheric Changes

Grade 11 Science
Training Student

Question 1?

Atmospheric Changes over Time (Part 1)

The gases that make up Earth's atmosphere have changed over time. Scientists measure the levels of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in Earth's atmosphere. The simplified Carbon Cycle Model shows locations where carbon is stored and processes that move carbon from one location to another.

GtC = gigatons of carbon

Scientists can use carbon cycle models to help make predictions about the amounts of carbon in different locations. Use this Carbon Cycle Model to identify **all** the processes that would decrease CO₂ in the atmosphere if the rate of that process were to increase.

- (a) photosynthesis
- (b) cellular respiration
- (c) fossil fuel combustion
- (d) diffusion into the ocean
- (e) diffusion into the atmosphere

After answering the question, the student selects Next.

Review/End Test
Pause
Flag
Next

Stimulus introduces the phenomenon and remains on the left side of the screen as the items change on the right side of the screen. The student may need to scroll down to read the entire stimulus.

Part	Key	Scoring
NA	a and d	1
<p>Assessment Claim: The student uses the model to make a prediction about how changes in parts of the carbon cycle would affect other parts of the cycle.</p>		

Grade 11 Sample Item Cluster: Atmospheric Changes

Grade 11 Science Training Student

Question 2 ?

Atmospheric Changes over Time (Part 1)

The gases that make up Earth's atmosphere have changed over time. Scientists measure the levels of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in Earth's atmosphere. The simplified Carbon Cycle Model shows locations where carbon is stored and processes that move carbon from one location to another.

Carbon Cycle Model

Atmosphere 730 GtC

119 GtC/year cellular respiration

120 GtC/year photosynthesis

90 GtC/year diffusion

6.3 GtC/year fossil fuel combustion and industrial processes

88 GtC/year diffusion

plants and soils 2,000 GtC

ocean 38,000 GtC

GtC = gigatons of carbon

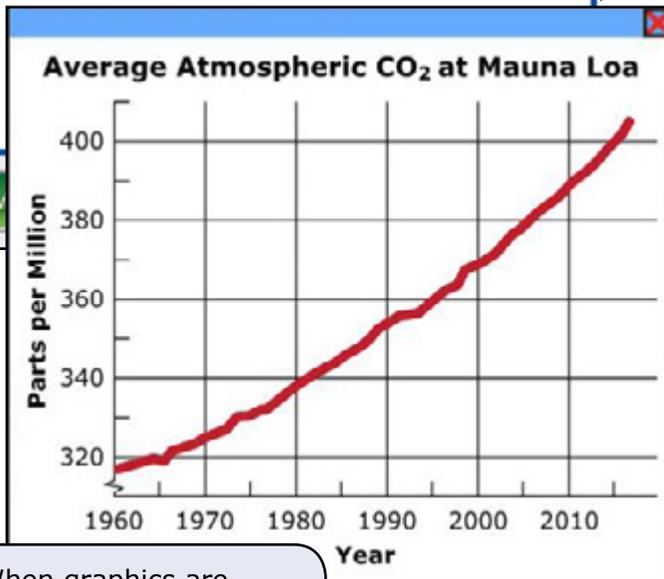
[Enlarge](#)

The graph shows data about atmospheric CO₂ concentrations collected in Mauna Loa, Hawaii, since 1960.

[Enlarge](#)

Use the data and the Carbon Cycle Model to explain the pattern of atmospheric CO₂ concentrations over time.

The data show that atmospheric CO₂ concentrations have over time. This pattern is most likely due to the process of .



increased
decreased
stayed the same

photosynthesis
cellular respiration
fossil fuel combustion
diffusion into the ocean
diffusion into the atmosphere

When graphics are enlarged they can overlap. The student can move the enlarged boxes around by selecting and holding on the blue bar at the top and moving the box.

Part	Key	Scoring
drop-down 1	increased	*
drop-down 2	fossil fuel combustion	1

Assessment Claim: The student uses the model and the data table to explain changes in atmospheric CO₂ concentrations over time.

Grade 11 Sample Item Cluster: Atmospheric Changes

Grade 11 Science
Training Student

Question 3?

Atmospheric Changes over Time (Part 1)

The gases that make up Earth's atmosphere have changed over time. Scientists measure the levels of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in Earth's atmosphere. The simplified Carbon Cycle Model shows locations where carbon is stored and processes that move carbon from one location to another.

GtC = gigatons of carbon

Scientists think that Earth's early atmosphere was different from Earth's current atmosphere due to a large amount of volcanic activity. Scientists analyze oxygen (O₂), carbon dioxide (CO₂), and water (H₂O) from recent volcanic activity to make inferences about the presence of these gases in Earth's early atmosphere.

Gases	Recent Volcanic Activity used to estimate Earth's early atmosphere	Current Atmosphere
O ₂	0.0%	21.0%
CO ₂	2.0%	Trace amounts
H ₂ O	96.0%	Trace amounts
Other gases	2.0%	79.0%

Scientists estimate that the first land plants developed on Earth about 450 million years ago and changed Earth's atmosphere drastically.

Complete the statement below to describe the role of plants in changing Earth's atmosphere.

The amount of in the atmosphere over time because of the process of .

Gases	Recent Volcanic Activity used to estimate Earth's early atmosphere	Current Atmosphere
O ₂	0.0%	21.0%
CO ₂	2.0%	Trace amounts
H ₂ O	96.0%	Trace amounts
Other gases	2.0%	79.0%

Part	Key 1 (possible correct answers)	Key 2 (possible correct answers)	Scoring
drop-down 1	oxygen	carbon dioxide	*
drop-down 2	increased	decreased	*
drop-down 3	photosynthesis	photosynthesis	1

Assessment Claim: The student uses the model and the data table to explain changes in atmospheric O₂ concentrations over time.

Grade 11 Sample Item Cluster: Atmospheric Changes

Grade 11 Science **Training Student**

Question 4 ?
Page 1 of 2

Atmospheric Changes Over Time (Part 2)

Students study how changes in Earth's atmosphere affect Arctic sea ice.

Changes in Arctic Sea Ice Boundaries 2000-2012

[Enlarge](#)

The students notice that the maps show liquid water and land in addition to sea ice. They perform an investigation to determine if solar radiation affects water and land differently.

Investigation Materials

- water to model the ocean
- soil to model the land
- heat lamp to model the Sun
- equal volumes of water and soil

The heat lamp was turned on for 10 minutes and then turned off.

[More Text Above](#)

[More Text Below](#)

Investigation Setup

[Enlarge](#)

Temperature of Water and Soil Over Time

This question has two parts.

The graph shows the data collected during the investigation.

[Enlarge](#)

Part A: Based on the graph, which statement **best** explains the difference in the temperature pattern between the substances?

(a) Water absorbs and stores more energy than soil.

(b) Soil absorbs and stores more energy than water.

(c) Water absorbs more energy than soil but can quickly release the energy in a short period of time.

(d) Soil absorbs more energy than water but can quickly release the energy in a short period of time.

[More Text Above](#)

The students notice that the maps show liquid water and land in addition to sea ice. They perform an investigation to determine if solar radiation affects water and land differently.

Investigation Materials

- water to model the ocean
- soil to model the land
- heat lamp to model the Sun
- equal volumes of water and soil

The heat lamp was turned on for 10 minutes and then turned off.

Temperature of Water and Soil Over Time

[Enlarge](#)

While option D is the best choice available, the key difference is that the same amount of energy causes a larger change in temperature for the soil, and that option is not available. The amount of energy absorbed and stored in the two containers would depend on various factors (e.g., the color of the water container, the color of the soil, and rates of evaporation from the water.) Overall, the amount of energy absorbed and stored by the water and the soil is likely to be about the same.

The student scrolls down to read the entire stimulus.

Grade 11 Sample Item Cluster: Atmospheric Changes

Grade 11 Science
Training Student

Question 4
Page 2 of 2

?

Atmospheric Changes over Time (Part 2)

Students study how changes in Earth's atmosphere affect Arctic sea ice.

Changes in Arctic Sea Ice Boundaries
2000–2012

2000 sea ice

2012 sea ice

[Enlarge](#)

The students notice that the maps show liquid water and land in addition to sea ice. They perform an investigation to determine if solar radiation affects water and land differently.

Investigation Materials

- water to model the ocean
- soil to model the land
- heat lamp to model the Sun
- equal volumes of water and soil

The heat lamp was turned on for 10 minutes and then turned off.

More Text Below

This question has two parts.

The graph shows the data collected during the investigation.

Enlarge

Part B: Complete the statement that **best** uses evidence from the investigation to support the explanation chosen in Part A.

The water had increase in temperature when the heat lamp was on. The water had decrease in temperature when the heat lamp was turned off.

Review/End Test
Pause
Flag

Back
Next

Part	Key	Scoring
A	d	*
B: drop-down 1	a small	*
B: drop-down 2	no	1

Assessment Claim: The student uses the data from the investigation to explain the difference in energy absorption of two materials.

The student can navigate backward or move forward throughout the entire item cluster.

Grade 11 Sample Item Cluster: Atmospheric Changes

Grade 11 Science Training Student

Question 5 ?

Atmospheric Changes over Time (Part 2)

Students study how changes in Earth's atmosphere affect Arctic sea ice.

Changes in Arctic Sea Ice Boundaries 2000-2012

2000 sea ice 2012 sea ice

[Enlarge](#)

The students notice that the maps show liquid water and land in addition to sea ice. They perform an investigation to determine if solar radiation affects water and land differently.

Investigation Materials

- water to model the ocean
- soil to model the land
- heat lamp to model the Sun
- equal volumes of water and soil

The heat lamp was turned on for 10 minutes and then turned off.

[More Text Below](#)

Review/End Test
Pause
Flag

The students decided to modify the original investigation to answer a new question.

New Question: Does reflection of solar radiation have a role in the changing amount of sea ice?

Move one modification that would **best** help to answer the new question and move one reasoning that supports the modification into the chart.

Modification	Reasoning
<p>Possible Modification for Investigation</p> <p>Place a thin sheet of metal on top of a second cup of water, and put it under the heat lamp for ten minutes. Then compare the water temperature of the covered cup with that of the uncovered cup.</p> <p>Place a sheet of dark color paper on top of a second cup of water, and put it under the heat lamp for ten minutes. Then compare the water temperature of the covered cup with that of the cup of soil.</p>	<p>Possible Reasoning for Selected Modification</p> <p>Covering the cup of water represents snow and would reflect light from the heat lamp.</p> <p>The position of the heat lamp would affect how much energy reaches substances in the cups before the energy is reflected by each of the substances.</p> <p>The material used to cover the cup would reflect energy that would be absorbed by the substance in the other cup.</p> <p>The heat lamp represents the energy from the Sun during winter when there is less solar radiation being absorbed and reflected by surfaces on Earth.</p>

[Click To Respond](#)

The student selects the "Click to Respond" button to enlarge the response window, and then selects and moves given statements into the empty table cells to respond to the prompt.

Modification	Reasoning
<p>Place a thin sheet of metal on top of a second cup of water, and put it under the heat lamp for ten minutes. Then compare the water temperature of the covered cup with that of the uncovered cup.</p> <p>Possible Modification for Investigation</p> <p>Move the heat lamp farther away from the cup of water and the cup of soil.</p> <p>Place a sheet of dark color paper on top of a second cup of water, and put it under the heat lamp for ten minutes. Then compare the water temperature of the covered cup with that of the cup of soil.</p>	<p>Covering the cup of water represents snow and would reflect light from the heat lamp.</p> <p>Possible Reasoning for Selected Modification</p> <p>The position of the heat lamp would affect how much energy reaches substances in the cups before the energy is reflected by each of the substances.</p> <p>The material used to cover the cup would reflect energy that would be absorbed by the substance in the other cup.</p> <p>The heat lamp represents the energy from the Sun during winter when there is less solar radiation being absorbed and reflected by surfaces on Earth.</p>

[More Text Below](#)

Part	Key	Scoring
Modification	Place a thin sheet of metal on top of a second cup of water, and put it under the heat lamp for ten minutes. Then compare the water temperature of the covered cup with that of the uncovered cup.	*
Reasoning	Covering the cup of water represents snow and would reflect light from the heat lamp.	1

Assessment Claim: The student determine how to modify the investigation to answer a new question.

Grade 11 Sample Item Cluster: Atmospheric Changes

Grade 11 Science Training Student

Question 6 ?

Atmospheric Changes over Time (Part 2)

Students study how changes in Earth's atmosphere affect Arctic sea ice.

Changes in Arctic Sea Ice Boundaries 2000–2012




Enlarge

The students notice that the maps show liquid water and land in addition to sea ice. They perform an investigation to determine if solar radiation affects water and land differently.

Investigation Materials

- water to model the ocean
- soil to model the land
- heat lamp to model the Sun
- equal volumes of water and soil

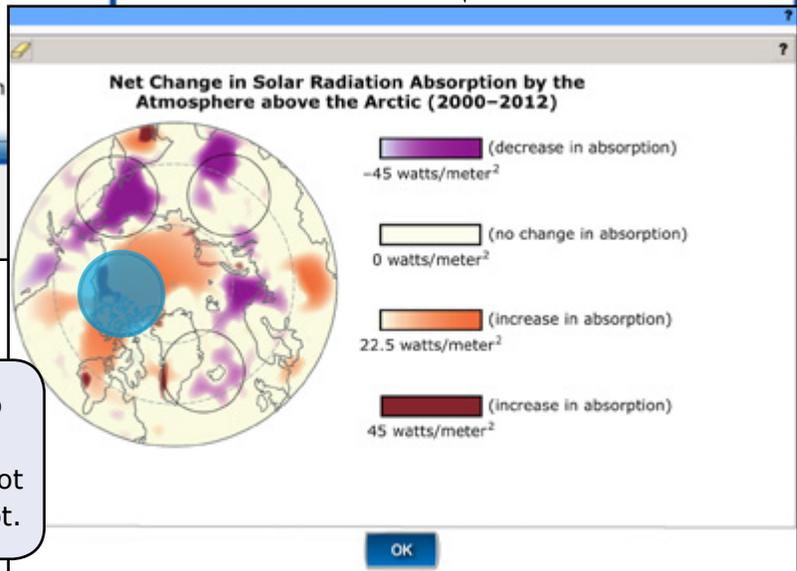
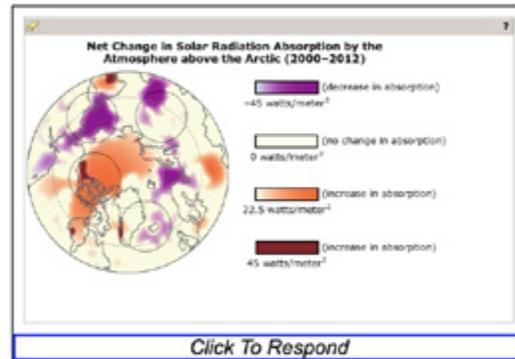
The heat lamp was turned on for 10 minutes and then turned off.

[More Text Below](#)

Review/End Test
Pause
Flag

The map below shows the absorbed radiation trend in the Arctic from 2000–2012. To determine the trend, scientists measured the amount of solar radiation absorbed by the atmosphere above the Arctic. Scientists claim that the amount of solar radiation absorbed by Earth's surface is related to the amount of sea ice covering the surface.

Select the area on the map that shows evidence that would **best** support this claim.



The student selects the "Click to Respond" button to enlarge the response window and select a hot spot(s) to respond to the prompt.

Part	Key	Scoring
NA	The area that is keyed to dark red (increase in absorption) 45 watts/meter ²	1

Assessment Claim: The student compares graphical information and extrapolates evidence to support a claim about trends in solar radiation absorption.

Grade 11 Sample Item Cluster: Atmospheric Changes

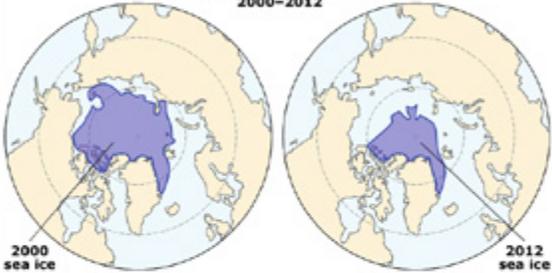
Grade 11 Science Training Student

Question 7 ?

Atmospheric Changes over Time (Part 2)

Students study how changes in Earth's atmosphere affect Arctic sea ice.

Changes in Arctic Sea Ice Boundaries 2000–2012



[Enlarge](#)

The students notice that the maps show liquid water and land in addition to sea ice. They perform an investigation to determine if solar radiation affects water and land differently.

Investigation Materials

- water to model the ocean
- soil to model the land
- heat lamp to model the Sun
- equal volumes of water and soil

The heat lamp was turned on for 10 minutes and then turned off.

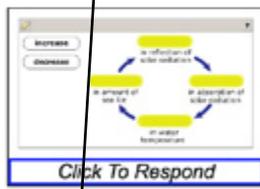
[More Text Below](#)

[Review/End Test](#) [Pause](#) [Flag](#) [Back](#) [Next](#)

Read the excerpt below.

[Enlarge](#)

Part A: Based on the excerpt and your knowledge of atmospheric changes, complete the model to show the relationship between solar radiation absorption and the available amount of sea ice that affects the polar bears' access to prey in the Arctic.



[Click To Respond](#)

Part B: Use the model in Part A to explain how atmospheric changes are affecting polar bears' access to prey in the Arctic.

In 2007, the U.S. Geological Survey estimated that the global polar bear population will shrink to a third of its current size by 2050, due to loss of habitat and less access to prey. "Polar bears are declining because they use sea ice as hunting platforms to catch their primary prey, seals. But when that ice is there, it's really jumbled up due to freezing and refreezing events. The seals may be there, but the polar bears can't get to them. The observed loss of sea ice in the Arctic has been greater than earlier climate models. We're losing ice faster than forecasted."

—Jeff Bromaghin, U.S. Geological Survey statistician

Grade 11 Sample Item Cluster: Atmospheric Changes

Grade 11 Science Training Student

Question 7

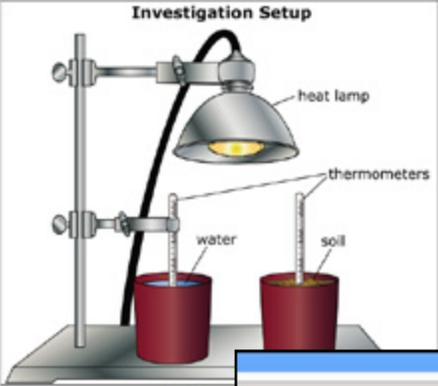
More-Text Above

The students notice that the maps show liquid water and land in addition to sea ice. They perform an investigation to determine if solar radiation affects water and land differently.

Investigation Materials

- water to model the ocean
- soil to model the land
- heat lamp to model the Sun
- equal volumes of water and soil

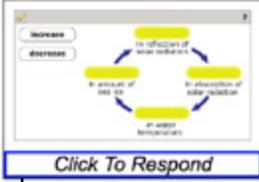
The heat lamp was turned on for 10 minutes and then turned off.



Read the excerpt below.

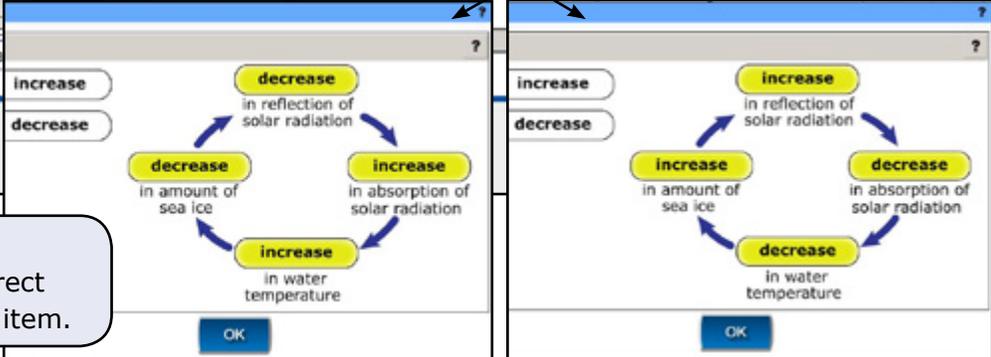


Part A: Based on the excerpt and your knowledge of atmospheric changes, complete the model to show the relationship between solar radiation absorption and the available amount of sea ice that affects the polar bears' access to prey in the Arctic.



Part B: Use the model in Part A to explain how atmospheric changes are affecting polar bears' access to prey in the Arctic.

Note: There are two possible correct answers for this item.



Part (model labels)	Key 1 (possible correct answers)	Key 2 (possible correct answers)	Scoring
A: top label	decrease	increase	*
A: right label	increase	decrease	*
A: bottom label	increase	decrease	*
A: left label	decrease	increase	1
B	The model shows a cycle of decreasing sea ice due to increased CO ₂ in the atmosphere. The decrease in sea ice prevents polar bears from accessing their main prey, seals. Without access to prey, the polar bears will die off.		2

Assessment Claim: The student completes a model to show the relationship between solar radiation and amount of sea ice. The student then uses the model to construct an explanation about how the atmospheric changes are affecting polar bears.

References

Michigan Department of Education. 2015. Michigan K-12 Science Standards. https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/K-12_Science_Performance_Expectations_v5_496901_7.pdf

National Research Council. 2012. *A Framework for K-12 Science Education: Practices, Crosscutting Concepts, and Core Ideas*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/13165>.

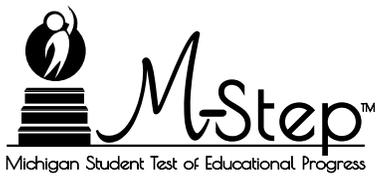
NGSS Lead States. 2013. *Next Generation Science Standards: For States, By States*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

5th

8th

11th

2018 Science Grades 5, 8, and 11 Annotated Sample Items



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