INTRODUCTION | GRADE 6

Science Literacy for All Students

Science is a way of knowing, a process for gaining knowledge and understanding of the natural world. Engineering combines the fields of science, technology, and mathematics to provide solutions to real-world problems. The nature and process of developing scientific knowledge and understanding includes constant questioning, testing, and refinement, which must be supported by evidence and has little to do with popular consensus. Since progress in the modern world is tied so closely to this way of knowing, scientific literacy is essential for a society to be competitively engaged in a global economy. Students should be active learners who demonstrate their scientific understanding by using it. It is not enough for students to read about science; they must participate in the three dimensions of science. They should observe, inquire, question, formulate and test hypotheses, analyze data, report, and evaluate findings. The students, as scientists, should have hands-on, active experiences throughout the instruction of the science curriculum. These standards help students find value in developing novel solutions as they engage with complex problems.

Three Dimensions of Science[1]

Science education includes three dimensions of science understanding: science and engineering practices, crosscutting concepts, and disciplinary core ideas. Every standard includes each of the three dimensions; **Science and Engineering Practices are bolded**, <u>Crosscutting Concepts are underlined</u>, and Disciplinary Core Ideas are in normal font. Standards with *specific engineering expectations are italicized.*

Scientific and Engineering Practices	<u>Crosscutting Concepts</u>	Disciplinary Core Ideas
▸ Asking questions or defining problems ▸ Developing and using models ▸ Planning and carrying out investigations ▸ Analyzing and interpreting data ▸ Using mathematics and computational thinking ▸ Constructing explanations and designing solutions ▸ Engaging in argument from evidence ▸ Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information	▸ Patterns ▸ Cause and effect: mechanism and explanation ▸ Scale, proportion, and quantity ▸ Systems and system models ▸ Energy and matter: flows, cycles, and conservation ▸ Structure and function ▸ Stability and change	▸ Earth and Space Science ▸ Life Science ▸ Physical Science ▸ Engineering

[1] NRC Framework K–12 Science Education: http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13165

Organization of Standards

The Utah SEEd standards[2] are organized into **strands**, which represent significant areas of learning within content areas. Within each strand are **standards**. A standard is an articulation of the demonstrated proficiency to be obtained. A standard represents an essential element of the learning that is expected. While some standards within a strand may be more comprehensive than others, all standards are essential for mastery.

Grade Six | Utah Science With Engineering Education (SEEd) Standards

The sixth grade SEEd standards provide a framework for student understanding of the cycling of matter and the flow of energy through the study of observable phenomena on Earth. Students will explore the role of energy and gravity in the solar system as they compare the scale and properties of objects in the solar system and model the Sun-Earth-Moon system. These strands also emphasize heat energy as it affects some properties of matter, including states of matter and density. The relationship between heat energy and matter is observable in many phenomena on Earth, such as seasons, the water cycle, weather, and climates. Types of ecosystems on Earth are dependent upon the interaction of organisms with each other and with the physical environment. By researching interactions between the living and non-living components of ecosystems, students will understand how the flow of energy and cycling of matter affects stability and change within their environment.

[2] Most SEEd Standards are based on the Next Generation Science Standards: http://www.nextgenscience.org

Strand 6.1: STRUCTURE AND MOTION WITHIN THE SOLAR SYSTEM

The solar system consists of the Sun, planets, and other objects within Sun's gravitational influence. Gravity is the force of attraction between masses. The Sun-Earth-Moon system provides an opportunity to study interactions between objects in the solar system that influence phenomena observed from Earth. Scientists use data from many sources to determine the scale and properties of objects in our solar system.

- **Standard 6.1.1** **Develop and use a model** of the Sun-Earth-Moon system to describe the cyclic patterns of lunar phases, eclipses of the Sun and Moon, and seasons. Examples of models could be physical, graphical, or conceptual.
- **Standard 6.1.2** **Develop and use a model** to describe the role of gravity and inertia in orbital motions of objects in our solar system.
- **Standard 6.1.3** **Use computational thinking** to **analyze data** and determine the scale and properties of objects in the solar system. Examples of scale could include size and distance. Examples of properties could include layers, temperature, surface features, and orbital radius. Data sources could include Earth and space-based instruments such as telescopes and satellites. Types of data could include graphs, data tables, drawings, photographs, and models.

Strand 6.2: ENERGY AFFECTS MATTER

Matter and energy are fundamental components of the universe. Matter is anything that has mass and takes up space. Transfer of energy creates change in matter. Changes between general states of matter can occur through the transfer of energy. Density describes how closely matter is packed together. Substances with a higher density have more matter in a given space than substances with a lower density. Changes in heat energy can alter the density of a material. Insulators resist the transfer of heat energy, while conductors easily transfer heat energy. These differences in energy flow can be used to design products to meet the needs of society.

- **Standard 6.2.1** **Develop models** to show that molecules are made of different kinds, proportions and quantities of atoms. Emphasize understanding that there are differences between atoms and molecules, and that certain combinations of atoms form specific molecules. Examples of simple molecules could include water (H_2O), atmospheric oxygen (O_2), and carbon dioxide (CO_2).

- **Standard 6.2.2** **Develop a model** to predict the effect of heat energy on states of matter and density. Emphasize the arrangement of particles in states of matter (solid, liquid, or gas) and during phase changes (melting, freezing, condensing, and evaporating).

- **Standard 6.2.3** **Plan and carry out an investigation** to determine the relationship between temperature, the amount of heat transferred, and the change of average particle motion in various types or amounts of matter. Emphasize recording and evaluating data, and communicating the results of the investigation.

- **Standard 6.2.4** ***Design*** *an object, tool, or process* that minimizes or maximizes heat energy transfer. *Identify criteria and constraints, develop a prototype for iterative testing, analyze data from testing, and propose modifications for optimizing the* ***design solution***. Emphasize demonstrating how the structure of differing materials allows them to function as either conductors or insulators.

Strand 6.3: EARTH'S WEATHER PATTERNS AND CLIMATE

All Earth processes are the result of energy flowing and matter cycling within and among the planet's systems. Heat energy from the Sun, transmitted by radiation, is the primary source of energy that affects Earth's weather and drives the water cycle. Uneven heating across Earth's surface causes changes in density, which result in convection currents in water and air, creating patterns of atmospheric and oceanic circulation that determine regional and global climates.

- **Standard 6.3.1** **Develop a model** to describe how the cycling of water through Earth's systems is driven by energy from the Sun, gravitational forces, and density.
- **Standard 6.3.2** **Investigate** the interactions between air masses that cause changes in weather conditions. Collect and analyze weather data to provide evidence for how air masses flow from regions of high pressure to low pressure causing a change in weather. Examples of data collection could include field observations, laboratory experiments, weather maps, or diagrams.
- **Standard 6.3.3** **Develop and use a model** to show how unequal heating of the Earth's systems causes patterns of atmospheric and oceanic circulation that determine regional climates. Emphasize how warm water and air move from the equator toward the poles. Examples of models could include Utah regional weather patterns such as lake-effect snow and wintertime temperature inversions.
- **Standard 6.3.4** **Construct an explanation supported by evidence** for the role of the natural greenhouse effect in Earth's energy balance, and how it enables life to exist on Earth. Examples could include comparisons between Earth and other planets such as Venus and Mars.

Strand 6.4: STABILITY AND CHANGE IN ECOSYSTEMS

The study of ecosystems includes the interaction of organisms with each other and with the physical environment. Consistent interactions occur within and between species in various ecosystems as organisms obtain resources, change the environment, and are affected by the environment. This influences the flow of energy through an ecosystem, resulting in system variations. Additionally, ecosystems benefit humans through processes and resources, such as the production of food, water and air purification, and recreation opportunities. Scientists and engineers investigate interactions among organisms and evaluate design solutions to preserve biodiversity and ecosystem resources.

- **Standard 6.4.1** **Analyze data** to provide evidence for the effects of resource availability on organisms and populations in an ecosystem. **Ask questions** to predict how changes in resource availability affects organisms in those ecosystems. Examples could include water, food, and living space in Utah environments.

- **Standard 6.4.2** **Construct an explanation** that predicts patterns of interactions among organisms across multiple ecosystems. Emphasize consistent interactions in different environments, such as competition, predation, and mutualism.

- **Standard 6.4.3** **Develop a model** to describe the cycling of matter and flow of energy among living and nonliving parts of an ecosystem. Emphasize food webs and the role of producers, consumers, and decomposers in various ecosystems. Examples could include Utah ecosystems such as mountains, Great Salt Lake, wetlands, and deserts.

- **Standard 6.4.4** **Construct an argument supported by evidence** that the stability of populations is affected by changes to an ecosystem. Emphasize how changes to living and nonliving components in an ecosystem affect populations in that ecosystem. Examples could include Utah ecosystems such as mountains, Great Salt Lake, wetlands, and deserts.

- **Standard 6.4.5** *Evaluate competing design solutions* for preserving ecosystem services that protect resources and biodiversity based on how well the solutions maintain stability within the ecosystem. Emphasize **obtaining, evaluating, and communicating** information of differing design solutions. Examples could include policies affecting ecosystems, responding to invasive species or solutions for the preservation of ecosystem resources specific to Utah, such as air and water quality and prevention of soil erosion.