

Main Criteria: Virtual Field Trips

Secondary Criteria: National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), National Geography Standards (NGS), Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

Subjects: Science, Social Studies

Grade: 2

Virtual Field Trips

How Coral Reefs Are Formed

National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)

Social Studies

Grade 2 - Adopted: 2010

THEME	NCSS.3.	PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS.
CATEGORY	3.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION 3.1.5. Physical changes in community, state, and region, such as seasons, climate, and weather, and their effects on plants and animals.

National Geography Standards (NGS)

Science

Grade 2 - Adopted: 2012

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PR.	Places and Regions
STANDARD	PR.4.	The physical and human characteristics of places
STRAND	PR.4.2.	The Characteristics of Places: Places have physical and human characteristics
BENCHMARK	PR.4.2.A.	Describe and compare the physical characteristics of places at a variety of scales, local to global, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PR.4.2.A.3. Describe and compare the physical environments and landforms of different places in the world (e.g., mountains, islands, valleys or canyons, mesas).

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.7.	The physical processes that shape the patterns of Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.7.1.	Components of Earth's Physical Systems: There are four components of Earth's physical systems (the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere)
BENCHMARK	PS.7.1.A.	Identify attributes of Earth's different physical systems, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PS.7.1.A.3. Identify examples of landforms on Earth's surface (e.g., mountains, volcanoes, valleys, plains).

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.7.	The physical processes that shape the patterns of Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.7.3.	Physical Processes: Physical processes shape features on Earth's surface
BENCHMARK	PS.7.3.B.	Describe how physical processes shape features on Earth's surface, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PS.7.3.B.2. Describe the physical processes that shaped particular landform features using pictures of landforms such as canyons, mesas, and deltas.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.8.	The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems and biomes on Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.8.1.	Components of Ecosystems: The components of ecosystems
BENCHMARK	PS.8.1.A	Identify the components of different ecosystems, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PS.8.1.A. Describe local ecosystems by surveying and recording the properties of their components.
3.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.8.	The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems and biomes on Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.8.2.	Characteristics and Geographic Distribution of Ecosystems: The characteristics of ecosystems
BENCHMARK	PS.8.2.A	Identify and describe the characteristics of ecosystems, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PS.8.2.A. Identify and describe the characteristics of an ecosystem (specific types of plants, climate, and soil) in which a
1. favorite or interesting creature lives.

EXPECTATION PS.8.2.A. Identify and draw pictures of different plants and animals in various local ecosystems (e.g., a pond, forest, city park).
2.

EXPECTATION PS.8.2.A. Compare the characteristics of different ecosystems (e.g., pond, deciduous forest, coral reef).
3.

National Geography Standards (NGS)
Social Studies
Grade 2 - Adopted: 2012

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.8.	The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems and biomes on Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.8.1.	Components of Ecosystems: The components of ecosystems
BENCHMARK	PS.8.1.A	Identify the components of different ecosystems, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PS.8.1.A. Identify the three major components of an ecosystem (i.e., biomass, climate, and soil).
1.

EXPECTATION PS.8.1.A. Identify examples of each ecosystem component (e.g., pine trees versus grasslands, low versus high rainfall, clay
2. versus sandy soils).

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.8.	The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems and biomes on Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.8.2.	Characteristics and Geographic Distribution of Ecosystems: The characteristics of ecosystems
BENCHMARK	PS.8.2.A	Identify and describe the characteristics of ecosystems, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION	PS.8.2.A.1.	Identify and describe the characteristics of an ecosystem (specific types of plants, climate, and soil) in which a favorite or interesting creature lives.
EXPECTATION	PS.8.2.A.3.	Compare the characteristics of different ecosystems (e.g., pond, deciduous forest, coral reef).
ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.8.	The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems and biomes on Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.8.3.	Characteristics and Geographic Distribution of Biomes: The characteristics of biomes
BENCHMARK	PS.8.3.A	Describe the characteristics of biomes, as exemplified by being able to
EXPECTATION	PS.8.3.A.1.	Describe the defining characteristics of a biome as a large region of ecosystems with similar climate and vegetation characteristics.
EXPECTATION	PS.8.3.A.2.	Describe the temperature, precipitation, and vegetation characteristics of various biomes, (e.g., deserts, grasslands, savannahs, temperate forests, tropical forests, arctic tundra).
EXPECTATION	PS.8.3.A.3.	Identify the characteristics in photographs of different types of vegetation and match them to the appropriate sections of a world climate map (e.g., cacti and succulents on a desert climate region, tropical forest trees on a tropical climate region, coral in shallow, tropical marine waters).

Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

Science

Grade 2 - Adopted: 2013

STRAND	NGSS.2-LS	LIFE SCIENCE
TITLE	2-LS4	Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity
		Students who demonstrate understanding can:

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATION 2-LS4-1 Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.

STRAND	NGSS.2-ESS	EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCE
TITLE	2-ESS2	Earth's Systems
		Students who demonstrate understanding can:

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATION 2-ESS2-2 Develop a model to represent the shapes and kinds of land and bodies of water in an area.

Main Criteria: Virtual Field Trips

Secondary Criteria: National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), National Geography Standards (NGS), Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

Subjects: Science, Social Studies

Grade: 3

Virtual Field Trips

How Coral Reefs Are Formed

National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)

Social Studies

Grade 3 - Adopted: 2010

THEME	NCSS.3.	PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS.
CATEGORY	3.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION 3.1.5. Physical changes in community, state, and region, such as seasons, climate, and weather, and their effects on plants and animals.

National Geography Standards (NGS)

Science

Grade 3 - Adopted: 2012

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PR.	Places and Regions
STANDARD	PR.4.	The physical and human characteristics of places
STRAND	PR.4.2.	The Characteristics of Places: Places have physical and human characteristics
BENCHMARK	PR.4.2.A.	Describe and compare the physical characteristics of places at a variety of scales, local to global, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PR.4.2.A.3. Describe and compare the physical environments and landforms of different places in the world (e.g., mountains, islands, valleys or canyons, mesas).

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.7.	The physical processes that shape the patterns of Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.7.1.	Components of Earth's Physical Systems: There are four components of Earth's physical systems (the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere)
BENCHMARK	PS.7.1.A.	Identify attributes of Earth's different physical systems, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PS.7.1.A.3. Identify examples of landforms on Earth's surface (e.g., mountains, volcanoes, valleys, plains).

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.7.	The physical processes that shape the patterns of Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.7.3.	Physical Processes: Physical processes shape features on Earth's surface
BENCHMARK	PS.7.3.B.	Describe how physical processes shape features on Earth's surface, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PS.7.3.B.2. Describe the physical processes that shaped particular landform features using pictures of landforms such as canyons, mesas, and deltas.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.8.	The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems and biomes on Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.8.1.	Components of Ecosystems: The components of ecosystems
BENCHMARK	PS.8.1.A	Identify the components of different ecosystems, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PS.8.1.A. Describe local ecosystems by surveying and recording the properties of their components.
3.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.8.	The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems and biomes on Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.8.2.	Characteristics and Geographic Distribution of Ecosystems: The characteristics of ecosystems
BENCHMARK	PS.8.2.A	Identify and describe the characteristics of ecosystems, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PS.8.2.A. Identify and describe the characteristics of an ecosystem (specific types of plants, climate, and soil) in which a
1. favorite or interesting creature lives.

EXPECTATION PS.8.2.A. Identify and draw pictures of different plants and animals in various local ecosystems (e.g., a pond, forest, city park).
2.

EXPECTATION PS.8.2.A. Compare the characteristics of different ecosystems (e.g., pond, deciduous forest, coral reef).
3.

National Geography Standards (NGS)
Social Studies
Grade 3 - Adopted: 2012

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.8.	The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems and biomes on Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.8.1.	Components of Ecosystems: The components of ecosystems
BENCHMARK	PS.8.1.A	Identify the components of different ecosystems, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PS.8.1.A. Identify the three major components of an ecosystem (i.e., biomass, climate, and soil).
1.

EXPECTATION PS.8.1.A. Identify examples of each ecosystem component (e.g., pine trees versus grasslands, low versus high rainfall, clay
2. versus sandy soils).

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.8.	The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems and biomes on Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.8.2.	Characteristics and Geographic Distribution of Ecosystems: The characteristics of ecosystems
BENCHMARK	PS.8.2.A	Identify and describe the characteristics of ecosystems, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION	PS.8.2.A.1.	Identify and describe the characteristics of an ecosystem (specific types of plants, climate, and soil) in which a favorite or interesting creature lives.
EXPECTATION	PS.8.2.A.3.	Compare the characteristics of different ecosystems (e.g., pond, deciduous forest, coral reef).
ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.8.	The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems and biomes on Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.8.3.	Characteristics and Geographic Distribution of Biomes: The characteristics of biomes
BENCHMARK	PS.8.3.A.	Describe the characteristics of biomes, as exemplified by being able to
EXPECTATION	PS.8.3.A.1.	Describe the defining characteristics of a biome as a large region of ecosystems with similar climate and vegetation characteristics.
EXPECTATION	PS.8.3.A.2.	Describe the temperature, precipitation, and vegetation characteristics of various biomes, (e.g., deserts, grasslands, savannahs, temperate forests, tropical forests, arctic tundra).
EXPECTATION	PS.8.3.A.3.	Identify the characteristics in photographs of different types of vegetation and match them to the appropriate sections of a world climate map (e.g., cacti and succulents on a desert climate region, tropical forest trees on a tropical climate region, coral in shallow, tropical marine waters).

Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

Science

Grade 3 - Adopted: 2013

STRAND	NGSS.3-LS	LIFE SCIENCE
TITLE	3-LS1	From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes
		Students who demonstrate understanding can:

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATION 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.

STRAND	NGSS.3-LS	LIFE SCIENCE
TITLE	3-LS2	Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics
		Students who demonstrate understanding can:

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATION 3-LS2-1 Construct an argument that some animals form groups that help members survive.

STRAND	NGSS.3-LS	LIFE SCIENCE
TITLE	3-LS4	Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity
		Students who demonstrate understanding can:

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATION 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.

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATION	3-LS4-3	Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.
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Main Criteria: Virtual Field Trips

Secondary Criteria: National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), National Geography Standards (NGS), Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

Subjects: Science, Social Studies

Grade: 4

Virtual Field Trips

How Coral Reefs Are Formed

National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)

Social Studies

Grade 4 - Adopted: 2010

THEME	NCSS.3.	PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS
DEFINITION		SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERIENCES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE STUDY OF PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS.
CATEGORY	3.1.	KNOWLEDGE - Learners will understand:

LEARNING EXPECTATION 3.1.5. Physical changes in community, state, and region, such as seasons, climate, and weather, and their effects on plants and animals.

National Geography Standards (NGS)

Science

Grade 4 - Adopted: 2012

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PR.	Places and Regions
STANDARD	PR.4.	The physical and human characteristics of places
STRAND	PR.4.2.	The Characteristics of Places: Places have physical and human characteristics
BENCHMARK	PR.4.2.A.	Describe and compare the physical characteristics of places at a variety of scales, local to global, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PR.4.2.A.3. Describe and compare the physical environments and landforms of different places in the world (e.g., mountains, islands, valleys or canyons, mesas).

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.7.	The physical processes that shape the patterns of Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.7.1.	Components of Earth's Physical Systems: There are four components of Earth's physical systems (the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere)
BENCHMARK	PS.7.1.A.	Identify attributes of Earth's different physical systems, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PS.7.1.A.3. Identify examples of landforms on Earth's surface (e.g., mountains, volcanoes, valleys, plains).

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.7.	The physical processes that shape the patterns of Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.7.3.	Physical Processes: Physical processes shape features on Earth's surface
BENCHMARK	PS.7.3.B.	Describe how physical processes shape features on Earth's surface, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PS.7.3.B.2. Describe the physical processes that shaped particular landform features using pictures of landforms such as canyons, mesas, and deltas.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.8.	The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems and biomes on Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.8.1.	Components of Ecosystems: The components of ecosystems
BENCHMARK	PS.8.1.A	Identify the components of different ecosystems, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PS.8.1.A. Describe local ecosystems by surveying and recording the properties of their components.
3.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.8.	The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems and biomes on Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.8.2.	Characteristics and Geographic Distribution of Ecosystems: The characteristics of ecosystems
BENCHMARK	PS.8.2.A	Identify and describe the characteristics of ecosystems, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PS.8.2.A. Identify and describe the characteristics of an ecosystem (specific types of plants, climate, and soil) in which a
1. favorite or interesting creature lives.

EXPECTATION PS.8.2.A. Identify and draw pictures of different plants and animals in various local ecosystems (e.g., a pond, forest, city park).
2.

EXPECTATION PS.8.2.A. Compare the characteristics of different ecosystems (e.g., pond, deciduous forest, coral reef).
3.

National Geography Standards (NGS)
Social Studies
Grade 4 - Adopted: 2012

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.8.	The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems and biomes on Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.8.1.	Components of Ecosystems: The components of ecosystems
BENCHMARK	PS.8.1.A	Identify the components of different ecosystems, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PS.8.1.A. Identify the three major components of an ecosystem (i.e., biomass, climate, and soil).
1.

EXPECTATION PS.8.1.A. Identify examples of each ecosystem component (e.g., pine trees versus grasslands, low versus high rainfall, clay
2. versus sandy soils).

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.8.	The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems and biomes on Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.8.2.	Characteristics and Geographic Distribution of Ecosystems: The characteristics of ecosystems
BENCHMARK	PS.8.2.A	Identify and describe the characteristics of ecosystems, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION	PS.8.2.A.1.	Identify and describe the characteristics of an ecosystem (specific types of plants, climate, and soil) in which a favorite or interesting creature lives.
EXPECTATION	PS.8.2.A.3.	Compare the characteristics of different ecosystems (e.g., pond, deciduous forest, coral reef).
ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.8.	The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems and biomes on Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.8.3.	Characteristics and Geographic Distribution of Biomes: The characteristics of biomes
BENCHMARK	PS.8.3.A.	Describe the characteristics of biomes, as exemplified by being able to
EXPECTATION	PS.8.3.A.1.	Describe the defining characteristics of a biome as a large region of ecosystems with similar climate and vegetation characteristics.
EXPECTATION	PS.8.3.A.2.	Describe the temperature, precipitation, and vegetation characteristics of various biomes, (e.g., deserts, grasslands, savannahs, temperate forests, tropical forests, arctic tundra).
EXPECTATION	PS.8.3.A.3.	Identify the characteristics in photographs of different types of vegetation and match them to the appropriate sections of a world climate map (e.g., cacti and succulents on a desert climate region, tropical forest trees on a tropical climate region, coral in shallow, tropical marine waters).

Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

Science

Grade 4 - Adopted: 2013

STRAND	NGSS.4-LS	LIFE SCIENCE
TITLE	4-LS1	From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes
		Students who demonstrate understanding can:

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATION	4-LS1-1	Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.
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Main Criteria: Virtual Field Trips

Secondary Criteria: National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), National Geography Standards (NGS), Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

Subjects: Science, Social Studies

Grade: 5

Virtual Field Trips

How Coral Reefs Are Formed

National Geography Standards (NGS)

Science

Grade 5 - Adopted: 2012

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.8.	The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems and biomes on Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.8.1.	Components of Ecosystems: Components of ecosystems are interdependent
BENCHMARK	PS.8.1.A	Describe how the components of ecosystems are connected and contribute to the energy of their own cycles, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PS.8.1.A. 3. Identify and describe the variable components in an ocean ecosystem that influence the interdependencies in an ecosystem (e.g., water temperature, depth, salinity, acidity, plants, fish, and marine mammals in an aquatic ecosystem).

National Geography Standards (NGS)

Social Studies

Grade 5 - Adopted: 2012

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.7.	The physical processes that shape the patterns of Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.7.1.	Components of Earth's Physical Systems: The four components of Earth's physical systems (the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere) are interdependent
BENCHMARK	PS.7.1.A	Identify and describe patterns in the environment that result from the interaction of Earth's physical processes, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PS.7.1.A. 2. Identify and describe the patterns that result from the connections between climate and vegetation (e.g., examples of patterns of ecosystems and biomes).

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.8.	The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems and biomes on Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.8.2.	Characteristics and Geographic Distribution of Ecosystems: Physical processes determine the characteristics of ecosystems
BENCHMARK	PS.8.2.A	Describe and explain how physical processes determine the characteristics of ecosystems, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PS.8.2.A. 2. Explain how different locations can have similar ecosystems as a function of temperature, precipitation, elevation, and latitude by using climographs and vegetation maps.

Main Criteria: Virtual Field Trips

Secondary Criteria: National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), National Geography Standards (NGS), Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

Subjects: Science, Social Studies

Grade: 6

Virtual Field Trips

How Coral Reefs Are Formed

National Geography Standards (NGS)

Science

Grade 6 - Adopted: 2012

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.8.	The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems and biomes on Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.8.1.	Components of Ecosystems: Components of ecosystems are interdependent
BENCHMARK	PS.8.1.A	Describe how the components of ecosystems are connected and contribute to the energy of their own cycles, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PS.8.1.A. 3. Identify and describe the variable components in an ocean ecosystem that influence the interdependencies in an ecosystem (e.g., water temperature, depth, salinity, acidity, plants, fish, and marine mammals in an aquatic ecosystem).

National Geography Standards (NGS)

Social Studies

Grade 6 - Adopted: 2012

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.7.	The physical processes that shape the patterns of Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.7.1.	Components of Earth's Physical Systems: The four components of Earth's physical systems (the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere) are interdependent
BENCHMARK	PS.7.1.A	Identify and describe patterns in the environment that result from the interaction of Earth's physical processes, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PS.7.1.A. 2. Identify and describe the patterns that result from the connections between climate and vegetation (e.g., examples of patterns of ecosystems and biomes).

ESSENTIAL ELEMENT	NGS.PS.	Physical Systems
STANDARD	PS.8.	The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems and biomes on Earth's surface
STRAND	PS.8.2.	Characteristics and Geographic Distribution of Ecosystems: Physical processes determine the characteristics of ecosystems
BENCHMARK	PS.8.2.A	Describe and explain how physical processes determine the characteristics of ecosystems, as exemplified by being able to

EXPECTATION PS.8.2.A. 2. Explain how different locations can have similar ecosystems as a function of temperature, precipitation, elevation, and latitude by using climographs and vegetation maps.

Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

Science

Grade 6 - Adopted: 2013

STRAND	NGSS.MS-LS	LIFE SCIENCE
TITLE	MS-LS1	From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

		Students who demonstrate understanding can:
PERFORMANCE EXPECTATION	MS-LS1-4	Use argument based on empirical evidence and scientific reasoning to support an explanation for how characteristic animal behaviors and specialized plant structures affect the probability of successful reproduction of animals and plants respectively.
PERFORMANCE EXPECTATION	MS-LS1-5	Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence for how environmental and genetic factors influence the growth of organisms.
STRAND	NGSS.MS-LS	LIFE SCIENCE
TITLE	MS-LS2	Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics
		Students who demonstrate understanding can:

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATION	MS-LS2-2	Construct an explanation that predicts patterns of interactions among organisms across multiple ecosystems.
PERFORMANCE EXPECTATION	MS-LS2-4	Construct an argument supported by empirical evidence that changes to physical or biological components of an ecosystem affect populations.