

Process Standards (Scientific Investigation and Reasoning Skills)

- 8.1 Scientific investigation and reasoning.** The student, for at least 40% of instructional time, conducts laboratory and field investigations following safety procedures and environmentally appropriate and ethical practices.
- 8.2 Scientific investigation and reasoning.** The student uses scientific practices during laboratory and field investigations.
- 8.4 Scientific investigation and reasoning.** The student knows how to use a variety of tools and safety equipment to conduct science inquiry.

STAAR	Tools to Know	
≥ 40% of items will be dual coded	8.1(A)	demonstrate safe practices during laboratory and field investigations as outlined in Texas Education Agency-approved safety standards
	8.1(B)	practice appropriate use and conservation of resources, including disposal, reuse, or recycling of materials
	8.2(A)	plan and implement comparative and descriptive investigations by making observations, asking well defined questions, and using appropriate equipment and technology
	8.2(B)	design and implement experimental investigations by making observations, asking well defined questions, formulating testable hypotheses, and using appropriate equipment and technology
	8.4(A)	use appropriate tools, including lab journals/notebooks, beakers, meter sticks, graduated cylinders, anemometers, psychrometers, hot plates, test tubes, spring scales, balances, microscopes, thermometers, calculators, computers, spectrosopes, timing devices, and other necessary equipment to collect, record, and analyze information
	8.4(B)	use preventative safety equipment, including chemical splash goggles, aprons, and gloves, and be prepared to use emergency safety equipment, including an eye/face wash, a fire blanket, and a fire extinguisher

Properties of Atoms

- 8.5 Matter and energy.** The student knows that matter is composed of atoms and has chemical and physical properties.

STAAR	Readiness Standards	Supporting Standards
5-6 items	8.5(A)	6.6(A) compare metals, nonmetals, and metalloids using physical properties such as luster, conductivity, or malleability
	8.5(B)	
	8.5(C)	

Chemical Formulas, Equations, and Reactions

- 8.5 Matter and energy.** The student knows that matter is composed of atoms and has chemical and physical properties.

4-5 items	8.5(D)	7.6(A) distinguish between physical and chemical changes in matter 6.6(B) calculate density to identify an unknown substance
	8.5(E)	

Force, Motion, and Energy

- 8.6 Force, motion, and energy.** The student knows that there is a relationship between force, motion, and energy.

8-9 items	8.6(A)	8.6(B) differentiate between speed, velocity, and acceleration 6.8(A) compare and contrast potential and kinetic energy 6.8(C) calculate average speed using distance and time measurements 6.8(D) measure and graph changes in motion 6.9(C) demonstrate energy transformations such as energy in a flashlight battery changes from chemical energy to electrical energy to light energy
	8.6(C)	

Sun, Earth, and Moon		
8.7 Earth and space. The student knows the effects resulting from cyclical movements of the Sun, Earth, and Moon.		
STAAR	Readiness Standards	Supporting Standards
3-4 items	8.7(A) model and illustrate how the tilted Earth rotates on its axis, causing day and night, and revolves around the Sun causing changes in seasons 8.7(B) demonstrate and predict the sequence of events in the lunar cycle	8.7(C) relate the positions of the Moon and Sun to their effect on ocean tides

Characteristics of the Universe		
8.8 Earth and space. The student knows characteristics of the universe.		
3-4 items	8.8(A) describe components of the universe, including stars, nebulae, and galaxies, and use models such as the Hertzsprung-Russell diagram for classification	8.8(B) recognize that the Sun is a medium-sized star located in a spiral arm of the Milky Way galaxy and that the Sun is many thousands of times closer to Earth than any other star 8.8(C) identify how different wavelengths of the electromagnetic spectrum such as visible light and radio waves are used to gain information about components in the universe 6.11(B) understand that gravity is the force that governs the motion of our solar system
	<i>SEs Not Included in Assessed Curriculum</i>	8.8(D) research how scientific data are used as evidence to develop scientific theories to describe the origin of the universe

Impact of Natural Events		
8.9 Earth and space. The student knows that natural events can impact Earth systems.		
4-5 items	8.9(B) relate plate tectonics to the formation of crustal features 8.9(C) interpret topographic maps and satellite views to identify land and erosional features and predict how these features may be reshaped by weathering	8.9(A) describe the historical development of evidence that supports plate tectonic theory 7.8(C) model the effects of human activity on groundwater and surface water in a watershed

Climatic Interactions		
8.10 Earth and space. The student knows that climatic interactions exist among Earth, ocean, and weather systems.		
1-2 items		8.10(A) recognize that the Sun provides the energy that drives convection within the atmosphere and oceans, producing winds 8.10(B) identify how global patterns of atmospheric movement influence local weather using weather maps that show high and low pressures and fronts 8.10(C) identify the role of the oceans in the formation of weather systems such as hurricanes

Interdependence of Living Systems		
8.11 Organisms and environments. The student knows that interdependence occurs among living systems and the environment and that human activities can affect these systems.		
STAAR	Readiness Standards	Supporting Standards
9-12 items	8.11(A) investigate how organisms and populations in an ecosystem depend on and may compete for biotic factors such as food and abiotic factors such as quantity of light, water, range of temperatures, or soil composition 8.11(B) explore how short-and long-term environmental changes affect organisms and traits in subsequent populations	8.11(C) recognize human dependence on ocean systems and explain how human activities such as runoff, artificial reefs, or use of resources have modified these systems 7.5(B) diagram the flow of energy through living systems, including food chains, food webs, and energy pyramids 7.10(B) describe how biodiversity contributes to the sustainability of an ecosystem 7.10(C) observe, record, and describe the role of ecological succession such as in a microhabitat of a garden with weeds 7.11(A) examine organisms or their structures such as insects or leaves and use dichotomous keys for identification 7.11(C) identify some changes in genetic traits that have occurred over several generations through natural selection and selective breeding such as the Galapagos Medium Ground Finch (<i>Geospiza fortis</i>) or domestic animals and hybrid plants 7.12(B) identify the main functions of the systems of the human organism, including the circulatory, respiratory, skeletal, muscular, digestive, excretory, reproductive, integumentary, nervous, and endocrine systems 7.12(D) differentiate between structure and function in plant and animal cell organelles, including cell membrane, cell wall, nucleus, cytoplasm, mitochondrion, chloroplast, and vacuole 7.12(F) recognize the components of cell theory 7.14(B) compare the results of uniform or diverse offspring from asexual or sexual reproduction 7.14(C) recognize that inherited traits of individuals are governed in the genetic material found in the genes within chromosomes in the nucleus 6.12(D) identify the basic characteristics of organisms, including prokaryotic or eukaryotic, unicellular or multicellular, autotrophic or heterotrophic, and mode of reproduction, that further classify them in the currently recognized kingdoms

Process Standards (Scientific Investigation and Reasoning Skills)		
8.2 Scientific investigation and reasoning. The student uses scientific practices during laboratory and field investigations.		
8.3 Scientific investigation and reasoning. The student uses critical thinking, scientific reasoning, and problem solving to make informed decisions and knows the contributions of relevant scientists.		
STAAR	Ways to Show	
≥ 40% of items will be dual coded	8.2(C) collect and record data using the International System of Units (SI) and qualitative means such as labeled drawings, writing, and graphic organizers 8.2(D) construct tables and graphs, using repeated trials and means, to organize data and identify patterns 8.2(E) analyze data to formulate reasonable explanations, communicate valid conclusions supported by the data, and predict trends 8.3(A) analyze, evaluate, and critique scientific explanations by using empirical evidence, logical reasoning, and experimental and observational testing, so as to encourage critical thinking by the student 8.3(B) use models to represent aspects of the natural world such as an atom, a molecule, space, or a geologic feature 8.3(C) identify advantages and limitations of models such as size, scale, properties, and materials 8.3(D) relate the impact of research on scientific thought and society, including the history of science and contributions of scientists as related to the content	

42 items (2 Griddable)	25-27 questions from Readiness Standards	15-17 questions from Supporting Standards
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NOTE: The classification of standards on this Snapshot represents the reviewed and synthesized input of a sample of Texas Science educators. This Snapshot DOES NOT represent a publication of the Texas Education Agency. District curriculum materials may reflect other classifications.