Grades 9–12
Life Science
Item Specifications

Missouri
DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY
EDUCATION

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Introduction

In 2014 Missouri legislators passed House Bill 1490, mandating the development of the Missouri Learning Expectations. In April of 2016, these Missouri Learning Expectations were adopted by the State Board of Education. Groups of Missouri educators from across the state collaborated to create the documents necessary to support the implementation of these expectations.

One of the documents developed is the item specification document, which includes all Missouri grade level/course expectations arranged by domains/strands. It defines what could be measured on a variety of assessments. The document serves as the foundation of the assessment development process.

Although teachers may use this document to provide clarity to the expectations, these specifications are intended for summative, benchmark, and large-scale assessment purposes.

Components of the item specifications include:

Expectation Unwrapped breaks down a list of clearly delineated content and skills the students are expected to know and be able to do upon mastery of the Expectation.

Depth of Knowledge (DOK) Ceiling indicates the highest level of cognitive complexity that would typically be assessed on a large scale assessment. The DOK ceiling is not intended to limit the complexity one might reach in classroom instruction.

Item Format indicates the types of test questions used in large scale assessment. For each expectation, the item format specifies the type best suited for that particular expectation.

Content Limits/Assessment Boundaries are parameters that item writers should consider when developing a large scale assessment. For example, some expectations should not be assessed on a large scale assessment but are better suited for local assessment.

Sample stems are examples that address the specific elements of each expectation and address varying DOK levels. The sample stems provided in this document are in no way intended to limit the depth and breadth of possible item stems. The expectation should be assessed in a variety of ways.

Possible Evidence indicates observable methods in which a student can show understanding of the expectations.

Stimulus Materials defines types of stimulus materials that can be used in the item stems.

Grades 9-12 LIFE SCIENCE

Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science		9-12.ETS1.A.1
Core Idea	**Engineering Design**	
Component	**Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems**	
MLS	Analyze a major global challenge to specify qualitative and quantitative criteria and constraints for solutions that account for societal needs and wants.	

Expectation Unwrapped

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES
Asking Questions and Defining Problems
- Analyze complex real-world problems by specifying criteria and constraints for successful solutions.

DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS
Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems
- Criteria and constraints also include satisfying any requirements set by society, such as taking issues of risk mitigation into account, and they should be quantified to the extent possible and stated in such a way that one can tell if a given design meets them.
- Humanity faces major global challenges today, such as the need for supplies of clean water and food or for energy sources that minimize pollution, which can be addressed through engineering. These global challenges also may have manifestations in local communities.

CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS
Influence of Science, Engineering, and Technology on Society and the Natural World
- New technologies can have deep impacts on society and the environment, including some that were not anticipated.
- Analysis of costs and benefits is a critical aspect of decisions about technology.

DOK Ceiling
3

Item Format
Selected Response
Constructed Response
Technology Enhanced

Content Limits/Assessment Boundaries

- Tasks should require students to draw conclusions from graphs, data tables, or text to support their conclusions.
- Tasks should not require students to differentiate between credible and non-credible sources.

Sample Stems

Possible Evidence	
● Identify and analyze the problem to be solved. ○ Describe the challenge with a rationale for why it is a major global challenge. ○ Describe qualitatively and quantitatively, the extent and depth of the problem and its major consequences to society and/or the natural world on both global and local scales if it remains unsolved. ○ Document background research on the problem from two or more sources, including research journals. ● Define the boundaries in which this problem is embedded and the components of that system. ○ In their analysis, students identify the physical system in which the problem is embedded, including the major elements and relationships in the system and boundaries so as to clarify what is and is not part of the problem. ○ In their analysis, students describe societal needs and wants that are relative to the problem (e.g., for controlling CO_2 emissions, societal needs include the need for cheap energy). ● Define the criteria and limitations (constraints) of the possible solution. • Students specify qualitative and quantitative criteria and limitations (constraints) for acceptable solutions to the problem.	
Stimulus Materials Graphic organizers, diagrams, graphs, data tables, drawings	

Grades 9-12 LIFE SCIENCE

Engineering, Technology, and Application of Science		9-12.ETS1.A.2
Core Idea **Component** **MLS**	**Engineering Design** **Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems** Design a solution to a complex real-world problem by breaking it down into smaller, more manageable problems that can be solved through engineering.	

Expectation Unwrapped	**DOK Ceiling**
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES **Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions** ● Design a solution to a complex real-world problem based on scientific knowledge, student-generated sources of evidence, prioritized criteria, and trade-off considerations. **DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS** **Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems** ● Criteria and constraints also include satisfying any requirements set by society, such as taking issues of risk mitigation into account, and they should be quantified to the extent possible and stated in such a way that one can tell if a given design meets them. ● Humanity faces major global challenges today, such as the need for supplies of clean water and food or for energy sources that minimize pollution, which can be addressed through engineering. These global challenges also may have manifestations in local communities. **Organizing the Design Solution** ● Criteria may need to be broken down into simpler ones that can be approached systematically, and decisions about the priority of certain criteria over others (trade-offs) may be needed. **CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS** **Stability and Change** ● Much of science deals with constructing explanations of how things change and how they remain stable.	3 **Item Format** Selected Response Constructed Response Technology Enhanced

Content Limits/Assessment Boundaries	**Sample Stems**
• Tasks may include complex real-world problems with more than one possible solution. All real-world problems used on the assessment should be provided to the student.	

Possible Evidence	

• Formulate a claim to potentially solve a complex real-world problem using a multistep solution based on scientific knowledge.
  ○ Students restate the original complex problem as a set of two or more subproblems (possibilities include in writing or as a diagram or flow chart).
  ○ For each of the subproblems, students propose at least one solution that is based on student-generated data and/or scientific information from other sources.
  ○ Students describe how solutions to the subproblems are interconnected to solve all or part of the larger problem.
• Describe criteria and limitations (constraints) of their solution, including quantification when appropriate.
  ○ Students describe the criteria and limitations (constraints) for the selected subproblem.
  ○ Students describe the rationale for the sequence of how subproblems are to be solved and which criteria should be given highest priority if trade-offs must be made.	

Stimulus Materials	
Graphic organizers, diagrams, graphs, data tables, drawings	

Grades 9-12 LIFE SCIENCE

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">Engineering, Technology, and Application of Science</th><th>9-12.ETS1.B.1</th></tr>
<tr><td>Core Idea</td><td colspan="2">Engineering Design</td></tr>
<tr><td>Component</td><td colspan="2">Developing Possible Solutions</td></tr>
<tr><td>MLS</td><td colspan="2">Evaluate a solution to a complex real-world problem based on prioritized criteria and trade-offs that account for a range of constraints, including cost, safety, reliability, and aesthetics as well as possible social, cultural, and environmental impacts.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2" rowspan="2"><u>Expectation Unwrapped</u>

<u>SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES</u>
Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions
● Evaluate a solution to a complex real-world problem based on scientific knowledge, student-generated sources of evidence, prioritized criteria, and trade-off considerations.

<u>DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS</u>
Developing Possible Solutions
● When evaluating solutions, it is important to take into account a range of constraints, including cost, safety, reliability, and aesthetics, and to consider social, cultural, and environmental impacts.

<u>CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS</u>
Influence of Science, Engineering, and Technology on Society and the Natural World
● New technologies can have deep impacts on society and the environment, including some that were not anticipated. Analysis of costs and benefits is a critical aspect of decisions about technology.</td><td><u>DOK Ceiling</u>
3</td></tr>
<tr><td><u>Item Format</u>
Selected Response
Constructed Response
Technology Enhanced</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2"><u>Content Limits/Assessment Boundaries</u>

• Tasks should require students to evaluate solutions based on at least two of the following: cost, safety, reliability, and aesthetics.
• Tasks should not require students to generate their own solutions.</td><td><u>Sample Stems</u></td></tr>
</table>

Possible Evidence	

• Students evaluate potential solutions.
  ○ Provide an evidence-based decision of which solution is optimum, based on prioritized criteria, analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of each solution, and barriers to be overcome.
• Students refine and/or optimize the design solution.
  ○ In their evaluation, students describe which parts of the complex real-world problem may remain even if the proposed solution is implemented.	

Stimulus Materials	
Graphic organizers, diagrams, graphs, data tables, drawings	

Grades 9-12 LIFE SCIENCE

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">Engineering, Technology, and Application of Science</th><th>9-12.ETS1.B.2</th></tr>
<tr><td>Core Idea
Component
MLS</td><td colspan="2">Engineering Design
Developing Possible Solutions
Use a computer simulation to model the impact of proposed solutions to a complex real-world problem with numerous criteria and constraints on interactions within and between systems relevant to the problem.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2"><u>Expectation Unwrapped</u>

<u>SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES</u>
Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking
● Use mathematical models and/or computer simulations to predict the effects of a design solution on systems and/or the interactions between systems.

<u>DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS</u>
Developing Possible Solutions
● Both physical models and computers can be used in various ways to aid in the engineering design process.
● Computers are useful for a variety of purposes, such as running simulations to test different ways of solving a problem or to see which one is most efficient or economical and in making a persuasive presentation to a client about how a given design will meet his or her needs.

<u>CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS</u>
Systems and System Models
● Models (e.g. physical, mathematical, computer models) can be used to simulate systems and interactions—including energy, matter, and information flows—within and between systems at different scales.</td><td><u>DOK Ceiling</u>
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<u>Item Format</u>
Selected Response
Constructed Response
Technology Enhanced</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2"><u>Content Limits/Assessment Boundaries</u>

• Tasks should include real-world problems that are relevant to students. Adequate background information is needed for any problem not potentially relevant to students.
• Tasks should not require students to generate their own complex real-world problem.</td><td><u>Sample Stems</u></td></tr>
</table>

Possible Evidence	

• Define what each part of the simulation represents.
  ○ Identify the complex real-world problem, with numerous criteria and limitations (constraints).
    ▪ Identify the system that is being modeled by the computational simulation, including the boundaries and individual components of the systems.
    ▪ Identify what variables can be changed by the user to evaluate the proposed solutions, trade-offs, or other decisions.
    ▪ Identify the scientific principles and or relationships being used by the model.
• Students use the given computer simulation to model the proposed solutions by selecting logical and realistic inputs and using the model to simulate the effects of different solutions, trade-offs, or other decisions.
• Analyze how the criteria and limitations (constraints) impact the problem.
  ○ Students will be able to analyze the simulated results as compared to the expected results.
  ○ Students interpret the results of the simulation and predict the effects of the proposed solutions within and between systems relevant to the problem based on the interpretation.
  ○ Students identify the possible negative consequences of solutions that outweigh their benefits.
  ○ Students identify the simulation's limitations (constraints).	

Stimulus Materials Graphic organizers, diagrams, graphs, data tables, drawings	

Grades 9-12 LIFE SCIENCE

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">Life Sciences</th><th>9-12.LS1.A.1</th></tr>
<tr><td>Core Idea
Component
MLS</td><td colspan="2">From Molecules to Organisms: Structure and Processes
Structure and Function
Construct a model of how the structure of DNA determines the structure of proteins which carry out the essential functions of life through systems of specialized cells.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2" rowspan="2"><u>Expectation Unwrapped</u>

[Clarification Statement: Genes are the regions in DNA that code for proteins. Basic transcription and translation explain the roles of DNA and RNA in coding the instructions for making polypeptides.]

<u>SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES</u>
Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions
● Construct an explanation based on valid and reliable evidence obtained from a variety of sources (including students’ own investigations, models, theories, simulations, peer review) and the assumption that theories and laws that describe the natural world operate today as they did in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

<u>DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS</u>
Structure and Function
● Systems of specialized cells within organisms help them perform the essential functions of life.
● All cells contain genetic information in the form of DNA molecules.
● Genes are regions in the DNA that contain the instructions that code for the formation of proteins, which carry out most of the work of cells. (Note: This Disciplinary Core Idea is also addressed by HS-LS3-1.)

<u>CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS</u>
Structure and Function
● Investigating or designing new systems or structures requires a detailed examination of the properties of different materials, the structures of different components, and connections of components to reveal its function and/or solve a problem.</td><td><u>DOK Ceiling</u>
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<tr><td><u>Item Format</u>
Selected Response
Constructed Response
Technology Enhanced</td></tr>
</table>

Content Limits/Assessment Boundaries	Sample Stems
• Tasks should not require students to distinguish between credible and non-credible sources. • Tasks requiring students to transcribe or translate a DNA sequence must also include a codon chart/wheel. • Tasks should not assess the functions of tRNA or rRNA. • Tasks should not require students to identify cell or tissue types, whole body systems, specific protein structures (folding) and functions, or the biochemistry of protein synthesis (i.e., enzymes).	
Possible Evidence	

• Students construct an explanation that includes the idea that regions of DNA, called genes, determine the structure of proteins, which carry out the essential functions of life through systems of specialized cells.
• Students use a variety of valid and reliable sources for the evidence (e.g., theories, simulations, peer review, students' own investigations).
• Identify and describe the evidence to construct their explanation, including that:
  ○ All cells contain DNA
  ○ DNA contains regions that are called genes
  ○ The sequence of genes contains instructions that code for proteins
  ○ Groups of specialized cells (tissues) use proteins to carry out functions that are essential to the organism
• Students use reasoning to connect evidence, along with the assumption that theories and laws that describe the natural world operate today as they did in the past and will continue to do so in the future, to construct the explanation. Students describe the following chain of reasoning in their explanation:
  ○ Because all cells contain DNA, all cells contain genes that can code for the formation of proteins.
  ○ Body tissues are systems of specialized cells with similar structures and functions, each of whose functions are mainly carried out by the proteins they produce.
  ○ Proper function of many proteins is necessary for the proper functioning of the cells.
  ○ Gene sequence affects protein function, which in turn affects the function of body tissues.	

Stimulus Materials	
Graphic organizers, diagrams, graphs, data tables, drawings	

Grades 9-12 LIFE SCIENCE

Life Sciences		9-12.LS1.A.2
Core Idea	**From Molecules to Organisms: Structure and Processes**	
Component	**Structure and Function**	
MLS	Develop and use a model to illustrate the hierarchical organization of interacting systems that provide specific functions within multicellular organisms.	

Expectation Unwrapped	**DOK Ceiling** 3
[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on functions at the organism system level such as nutrient uptake, water delivery, and organism movement in response to stimuli. Similar cells work together to form tissues. Tissues work together to form organs. Organs work together to form organ systems. Organ systems interact to form an organism.] **SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES** **Developing and Using Models** ● Develop and use a model based on evidence to illustrate the relationships between systems or between components of a system. **DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS** **Structure and Function** ● Multicellular organisms have a hierarchical structural organization, in which any one system is made up of numerous parts and is itself a component of the next level. **CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS** **System and System Models** ● Models (e.g., physical, mathematical, computer models) can be used to simulate systems and interactions—including energy, matter, and information flows—within and between systems at different scales. Refer to Engineering, Technology, and Application of Science ETS1.B.2	**Item Format** Selected Response Constructed Response Technology Enhanced
Content Limits/Assessment Boundaries ● Tasks should not include interactions or functions at the molecular or chemical reaction level. Any descriptions of relationships should be at the systems level. ● Tasks should not include the individual structure and function of parts of the systems (e.g., arteries, xylem).	**Sample Stems** *Examples, but not limited to:* *The diagram below represents levels of organization within a multicellular organism.*

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<u>Possible Evidence</u>

- Students develop a model in which they identify and describe the relevant parts (e.g., organ system, organs, and their component tissues) and processes (e.g., transport of fluids, motion) of body systems in multicellular organisms.
- Students describe the relationships between components.
  - In the model, students describe the relationships between components, including
    - the functions of at least two major body systems in terms of contributions to overall function of an organism,
    - ways the functions of two different systems affect one another, and
    - a system's function and how that relates both to the system's parts and to the overall function of the organism.
- Students use the model to illustrate how the interaction between systems provides specific functions in multicellular organisms.
- Students make a distinction between the accuracy of the model and actual body systems and functions it represents.

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Drag and drop parts of a model to show interactions.

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<u>Stimulus Materials</u>

Graphic organizers, diagrams, graphs, data tables, drawings

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Grades 9-12 LIFE SCIENCE

Life Sciences		9-12.LS1.A.3
Core Idea Component MLS	**From Molecules to Organisms: Structure and Processes** **Structure and Function** Plan and conduct an investigation to provide evidence that feedback mechanisms maintain homeostasis.	

Expectation Unwrapped	**DOK Ceiling**
[Clarification Statement: Examples of investigations could include heart rate response to exercise, stomata response to moisture and temperature, and root development in response to water levels.] **SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES** **Planning and Carrying Out Investigations** ● 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, quantity, and accuracy of data needed to produce reliable measurements; ○ consider limitations on the precision of the data (e.g., number of trials, cost, risk, time); ○ refine the design accordingly. **Scientific Investigations Use a Variety of Methods** ● Scientific inquiry is characterized by a common set of values that include: logical thinking, precision, open-mindedness, objectivity, skepticism, reliability, of results, and honest and ethical reporting of findings. **DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS** **Structure and Function** ● Multicellular organisms have a hierarchical structural organization in which any one system is made up of numerous parts and is itself a component of the next level. **CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS** **Stability and Change** ● Feedback (negative or positive) can stabilize or destabilize a system.	3 **Item Format** Selected Response Constructed Response Technology Enhanced

Content Limits/Assessment Boundaries	Sample Stems
• Tasks should focus on students recognizing and understanding the feedback mechanisms present in internal environments. • Tasks should provide students with enough background knowledge—students are not expected to know the physiological processes. • Tasks should not assess the cellular processes involved in the feedback mechanisms (e.g., cell receptors opening channels).	*If this happens, then what might be the reaction? Suggest a possible solution.*

Possible Evidence
 	
• Make a claim identifying the phenomenon under investigation.
  ○ Students describe the phenomenon under investigation, which includes the following idea: that feedback mechanisms maintain homeostasis.
  ○ Students develop an investigation plan and describe the data that will be collected and the evidence to be derived from the data, including
    ▪ changes within a chosen range in the external environment of a living system and
    ▪ responses of a living system that would stabilize and maintain the system's internal conditions (homeostasis), even though external conditions change, thus establishing the positive or negative feedback mechanism.
  ○ Students describe why the data will provide information relevant to the purpose of the investigation.
• Planning the investigation.
  ○ In the investigation plan, students describe the following:
    ▪ How the change in the external environment is to be measured or identified
    ▪ How the response of the living system will be measured or identified
    ▪ How the stabilization or destabilization of the systems internal conditions will be measured or determined
    ▪ The experimental procedure, the minimum number of different systems (and the factors that affect them) that would allow generalization of results, the evidence derived from the data, and identification of limitations on the precision of data to include types and amounts
    ▪ Whether the investigation will be conducted individually or collaboratively.
• Students collect and record changes in the external environment and organism responses as a function of time.	

● Students evaluate their investigation, including ○ assessment of the accuracy and precision of the data, as well as limitations (e.g., cost risk, time) of the investigation and suggestions for refinement, and ○ assessment of the ability of the data to provide the evidence required.	
Stimulus Materials Graphic organizers, diagrams, graphs, data tables, drawings	

Grades 9-12 LIFE SCIENCE

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">Life Sciences</th><th>9-12.LS1.B.1</th></tr>
<tr><td>Core Idea
Component
MLS</td><td colspan="2">From Molecules to Organisms: Structure and Processes
Growth and Development of Organisms
Develop and use models to communicate the role of mitosis, cellular division, and differentiation in producing and maintaining complex organisms.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2" rowspan="2"><u>Expectation Unwrapped</u>

[Clarification Statement: Major events of the cell cycle include cell growth, DNA replication, preparation for division, separation of chromosomes, and separation of cell contents.]

<u>SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES</u>
Developing and Using Models
● Use a model based on evidence to illustrate the relationships between systems or between components of a system.

<u>DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS</u>
Growth and Development of Organisms
● In multicellular organisms, individual cells grow and then divide via a process called mitosis, thereby allowing the organism to grow.
● The organism begins as a single cell (fertilized egg) that divides successively to produce many cells, with each parent cell passing identical genetic material (two variants of each chromosome pair) to both daughter cells.
● Cellular division and differentiation produce and maintain a complex organism, composed of systems of tissues and organs that work together to meet the needs of the whole organism.

<u>CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS</u>
Systems and System Models
● Models (e.g., physical, mathematical, computer) can be used to simulate systems and interactions—including energy, matter, and information flows—within and between systems at different scales.</td><td><u>DOK Ceiling</u>
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<tr><td><u>Item Format</u>
Selected Response
Constructed Response
Technology Enhanced</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><th>Content Limits/Assessment Boundaries</th><th>Sample Stems</th></tr>
<tr><td>

- Tasks should not include meiosis, specific gene control mechanisms, rote memorization of the steps of mitosis.
- Tasks should focus on the nucleus, chromosomes, cell membrane, cell wall, nuclear membrane, and cytoplasm. All other cell parts (e.g., spindle fibers, mitochondria, centrioles) should not be used.

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<tr><th>Possible Evidence</th></tr>
<tr><td>

- From a student-generated or given model, students identify and describe the components of the model relevant for illustrating the roles of mitosis, cellular division, and differentiation in producing and maintaining complex organisms.
  - Genetic material containing two variants of each chromosome pair, one from each parent
  - Parent and daughter cells (i.e., inputs and outputs of mitosis)
  - A multicellular organism as a collection of differentiated cells
- Students identify and describe the relationships between components of the given model.
  - Daughter cells receive identical genetic information from a parent cell or a fertilized egg.
  - Mitotic cell division produces two genetically identical daughter cells from one parent cell.
  - Differences between different cell types within a multicellular organism are due to gene expression—not different genetic material within that organism.
- Students use the given model to illustrate that mitotic cell division results in more cells that
  - allow growth of the organism,
  - can then differentiate to create different cell types, and
  - can replace dead cells to maintain a complex organism.
- Students make a distinction between the accuracy of the model and the actual process of cellular division.

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<tr><th>Stimulus Materials</th></tr>
<tr><td>Graphic organizers, diagrams, graphs, data tables, drawings</td></tr>
</table>

Grades 9-12 LIFE SCIENCE

Life Sciences		9-12.LS1.C.1
Core Idea	**From Molecules to Organisms: Structure and Processes**	
Component	**Organization for Matter and Energy Flow in Organisms**	
MLS	Use a model to demonstrate how photosynthesis transforms light energy into stored chemical energy.	

Expectation Unwrapped	DOK Ceiling
[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on illustrating inputs and outputs of matter and the transfer and transformation of energy in photosynthesis by plants and other photosynthesizing organisms. Examples of models could include diagrams, chemical equations, and conceptual models.] **SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES** **Developing and Using Models** ● Use a model based on evidence to illustrate the relationships between systems or between components of a system. **DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS** **Organization for Matter and Energy Flow in Organisms** ● The process of photosynthesis converts light energy to stored chemical energy by converting carbon dioxide plus water into sugars plus released oxygen. **CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS** **Energy and Matter** ● Changes of energy and matter in a system can be described in terms of energy, matter flows into, out of, and within that system.	3 **Item Format** Selected Response Constructed Response Technology Enhanced

Content Limits/Assessment Boundaries	Sample Stems
● Tasks should not require students to memorize or balance chemical equations. ● Tasks should not include specific biochemical processes (e.g., light independent and dependent reactions).	

Possible Evidence

- From a given model, students identify and describe the components of the model relevant for illustrating that photosynthesis transforms light energy into stored chemical energy by converting carbon dioxide plus water into sugars plus released oxygen, including
  - energy in the form of light.
  - energy is stored in the chemical bonds.
  - matter in the form of carbon dioxide, water, sugar, and oxygen.
- Students identify the following relationship between components of the given model: Sugar and oxygen are produced from carbon dioxide and water through the process of photosynthesis.
- Students a given model to illustrate
  - the transfer of matter and flow of energy between the organism and its environment during photosynthesis.
  - photosynthesis resulting in the storage of energy in the difference between the energies of the chemical bonds of the inputs (carbon dioxide and water) and outputs (sugar and oxygen).

Stimulus Materials

Graphic organizers, diagrams, graphs, data tables, drawings

Life Sciences		9-12.LS1.C.2
Core Idea Component MLS	**From Molecules to Organisms: Structure and Processes** **Organization for Matter and Energy Flow in Organisms** Use a model to demonstrate that cellular respiration is a chemical process whereby the bonds of molecules are broken and the bonds in new compounds are formed resulting in a net transfer of energy.	

Expectation Unwrapped	
[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the conceptual understanding of the inputs and outputs of the process of cellular respiration.] **SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES** **Developing and Using Models** ● Use a model based on evidence to illustrate the relationships between systems or between components of a system. **DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS** **Organization for Matter and Energy Flow in Organisms** ● As matter and energy flow through different organizational levels of living systems, chemical elements are recombined in different ways to form different products. ● As a result of these chemical reactions, energy is transferred from one system of interacting molecules to another. ● Cellular respiration is a chemical process in which the bonds of food molecules and oxygen molecules are broken and new compounds are formed that can transport energy to muscles. ● Cellular respiration also releases the energy needed to maintain body temperature despite ongoing energy transfer to the surrounding environment. **CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS** **Energy and Matter** ● Energy cannot be created or destroyed; it only moves between one place and another place, between objects and/or fields, or between systems.	**DOK Ceiling** 3 **Item Format** Selected Response Constructed Response Technology Enhanced

Content Limits/Assessment Boundaries

- Tasks should focus on the overall inputs and outputs of the process of cellular respiration
- Tasks should not require students to identify the steps or specific processes involved in cellular respiration (e.g., glycolysis, Kreb's Cycle).
- Tasks should not require students to memorize or balance chemical equations.
- Tasks should not include anaerobic cellular respiration.

Possible Evidence

- From a given model, students identify and describe the components of the model relevant for their demonstration of cellular respiration, including
  - matter in the form of food molecules, oxygen, and the products of their reaction (e.g., water and CO_2).
  - the breaking and formation of chemical bonds.
  - energy from the chemical reactions.
- From a given model, students describe the relationships between components, including the following:
  - Carbon dioxide and water are produced from sugar and oxygen by the process of cellular respiration.
  - The process of cellular respiration releases energy because the energy released when the bonds are formed in CO_2 and water is greater than the energy required to break the bonds of sugar and oxygen.
- Students use a given model to illustrate that:
  - the chemical reaction of oxygen and food molecules releases energy as the matter is rearranged, existing chemical bonds are broken, and new chemical bonds are formed, but matter and energy are neither created nor destroyed.
  - food molecules and oxygen transfer energy to the cell to sustain life's processes, including the maintenance of body temperature, despite ongoing energy transfer to the surrounding environment.

Stimulus Materials

Graphic organizers, diagrams, graphs, data tables, drawings

Sample Stems

Grades 9-12 LIFE SCIENCE

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">Life Sciences</th><th>9-12.LS1.C.3</th></tr>
<tr><td>Core Idea
Component
MLS</td><td colspan="2">From Molecules to Organisms: Structure and Processes
Organization for Matter and Energy Flow in Organisms
Construct and revise an explanation based on evidence that organic macromolecules are primarily composed of six elements, where carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen atoms may combine with nitrogen, sulfur, and phosphorus to form large carbon-based molecules.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2"><u>Expectation Unwrapped</u>

[Clarification Statement: Large carbon-based molecules included are proteins, carbohydrates, nucleic acids, and lipids. Emphasis is on the inclusion of the element, not the structural organization of the macromolecule and on using evidence from models and simulations to support explanations.]

<u>SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES</u>
Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions
● Construct and revise an explanation based on valid and reliable evidence obtained from a variety of sources (including students’ own investigations, models, theories, simulations, peer review) and on the assumption that theories and laws that describe the natural world operate today as they did in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

<u>DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS</u>
Organization for Matter and Energy Flow in Organisms
● The sugar molecules thus formed contain carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen: their hydrocarbon backbones are used to make amino acids and other carbon-based molecules that can be assembled into larger molecules (such as proteins or DNA), used to form new cells.
● As matter and energy flow through different organizational levels of living systems, chemical elements are recombined in different ways to form different products.

<u>CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS</u>
Energy and Matter
● Changes of energy and matter in a system can be described in terms of energy and matter flows into, out of, and within that system.</td><td><u>DOK Ceiling</u>
3

<u>Item Format</u>
Selected Response
Constructed Response
Technology Enhanced</td></tr>
</table>

Content Limits/Assessment Boundaries

- Tasks should include all necessary models.
- Tasks should not require students to identify macromolecules based on chemical structure.
- Tasks should not include the details of specific chemical reactions or bonding.

Possible Evidence

- Students make a claim explaining the phenomena (chemical structure of a macromolecule).
  - The relationship between the carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen atoms from sugar molecules formed in or ingested by an organism and those same atoms found in amino acids and other large carbon-based molecules
  - Larger carbon-based molecules and amino acids resulting from chemical reactions between sugar molecules (or their component atoms) and other atoms
- Students identify and describe the evidence to construct their explanation, including the following:
  - All organisms take in matter (allowing growth and maintenance) and rearrange the atoms in chemical reactions.
  - Cellular respiration involves chemical reactions between sugar molecules and other molecules in which energy is released that can be used to drive other chemical reactions.
  - Sugar molecules are composed of carbon, oxygen, and hydrogen atoms.
  - Amino acids and other complex carbon-based molecules are composed largely of carbon, oxygen, and hydrogen atoms.
  - Chemical reactions can create products that are more complex than the reactants.
  - Chemical reactions involve changes in the energies of the molecules involved in the reaction.
  - Students use a variety of valid and reliable sources for the evidence (e.g., theories, simulations, peer review, students’ own investigations).
- Students use reasoning to connect the evidence, along with the assumption that theories and laws that describe the natural world operate today as they did in the past and will continue to do so in the future, to construct the explanation that atoms from sugar molecules may combine with other elements via chemical reactions to form other large carbon-based molecules. Students describe the following chain of reasoning for their explanation:
  - The atoms in sugar molecules can provide most of the atoms that comprise amino acids and other complex carbon-based molecules.

Sample Stems

- The energy released in respiration can be used to drive chemical reactions between sugars and other substances, and the products of those reactions can include amino acids and other complex carbon-based molecules. - The matter flows in cellular processes are the result of the rearrangement of primarily the atoms in sugar molecules because those are the molecules whose reactions release the energy needed for cell processes. ● Given new evidence or context, students revise or expand their explanation about the relationships between atoms in sugar molecules and atoms in large carbon-based molecules and justify their revision.	
Stimulus Materials Graphic organizers, diagrams, graphs, data tables, drawings	

Grades 9-12 LIFE SCIENCE

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">Life Sciences</th><th>9-12.LS2.A.1</th></tr>
<tr><td>Core Idea
Component
MLS</td><td colspan="2">Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics
Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems
Explain how various biotic and abiotic factors affect the carrying capacity and biodiversity of an ecosystem using mathematical and/or computational representations.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2"><u>Expectation Unwrapped</u>

[Clarification Statement: Examples of biotic factors could include relationships among individuals (e.g., feeding relationships, symbioses, competition) and disease. Examples of abiotic factors could include climate and weather conditions, natural disasters, and availability of resources. Genetic diversity includes within a population and species within an ecosystem. Examples of mathematical comparisons could include graphs, charts, histograms, and population changes gathered from simulations or historical data sets.]

<u>SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES</u>
Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking
● Use mathematical and/or computational representations of phenomena or design solutions to support explanations.

<u>DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS</u>
Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems
● Ecosystems have carrying capacities, which are limits to the numbers of organisms and populations they can support.
● These limits result from such factors as the availability of living and nonliving resources and from such challenges such as predation, competition, and disease.
● Organisms would have the capacity to produce populations of great size were it not for the fact that environments and resources are finite.
● This fundamental tension affects the abundance (number of individuals) of species in any given ecosystem.

<u>CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS</u>
Scale, Proportion, and Quantity
● The significance of a phenomenon is dependent on the scale, proportion, and quantity at which it occurs.</td><td><u>DOK Ceiling</u>
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<u>Item Format</u>
Selected Response
Constructed Response
Technology Enhanced</td></tr>
</table>

Content Limits/Assessment Boundaries	Sample Stems
• Tasks should require students to create graphs based on given data tables. Students are not required to calculate the data necessary to complete a graph.	
Possible Evidence	
• Students identify and describe the components in the given mathematical and/or computational representations (e.g., trends, averages, histograms, graphs, spreadsheets) that are relevant to supporting given explanations of factors that affect carrying capacities of ecosystems at different scales. The components include ○ the population changes gathered from historical data or simulations of ecosystems at different scales. ○ data on numbers and types of organisms as well as boundaries, resources, and climate. • Students identify the given explanation(s) to be supported, which include the following ideas: ○ Some factors have larger effects than do other factors. ○ Factors are interrelated. ○ The significance of a factor is dependent on the scale (e.g., a pond vs. an ocean) at which it occurs. • Students use given mathematical and/or computational representations (e.g., trends, averages, histograms, graphs, spreadsheets) of ecosystem factors to identify changes over time in the numbers and types of organisms in ecosystems of different scales. • Students analyze and use the given mathematical and/or computational representations ○ to identify the interdependence of factors (both living and nonliving) and the resulting effect on carrying capacity. ○ as evidence to support the explanation and to identify the factors that have the largest effect on the carrying capacity of an ecosystem for a given population.	
Stimulus Materials	
Graphic organizers, diagrams, graphs, data tables, drawings	

Grades 9-12 LIFE SCIENCE

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">Life Sciences</th><th>9-12.LS2.B.1</th></tr>
<tr><td>Core Idea
Component
MLS</td><td colspan="2">Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics
Cycles of Matter and Energy Transfer in Ecosystems
Construct and revise an explanation based on evidence that the processes of photosynthesis, chemosynthesis, and aerobic and anaerobic respiration are responsible for the cycling of matter and flow of energy through ecosystems and that environmental conditions restrict which reactions can occur.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2" rowspan="2"><u>Expectation Unwrapped</u>

[Clarification Statement: Examples of environmental conditions can include the availability of sunlight or oxygen.]

<u>SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES</u>
Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions
● Construct and revise an explanation based on valid and reliable evidence obtained from a variety of sources (including students’ own investigations, models, theories, simulations, and peer review) and the assumption that theories and laws that describe the natural world operate today as they did in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

Connections to Nature of Science: Scientific Knowledge Is Open to Revision in Light of New Evidence
● Most scientific knowledge is quite durable, but is, in principle, subject to change based on new evidence and/or reinterpretation of existing evidence.

<u>DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS</u>
Cycles of Matter and Energy Transfer in Ecosystems
● Photosynthesis and cellular respiration (including anaerobic processes) provide most of the energy for life processes.

<u>CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS</u>
Energy and Matter
● Energy drives the cycling of matter within and between systems.</td><td><u>DOK Ceiling</u>
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<tr><td><u>Item Format</u>
Selected Response
Constructed Response
Technology Enhanced</td></tr>
</table>

Content Limits/Assessment Boundaries

- Tasks should be limited to conceptual understandings, not the specific mechanisms of rearranging atoms.
- Tasks should not include the specific chemical processes of photosynthesis (e.g., light dependent and independent reactions) or the chemosynthesis of either aerobic (e.g., Kreb's Cycle, glycolysis) or anaerobic respiration.
- Tasks should not include the nitrogen cycle, water cycle, or phosphorus cycle.
- Tasks should not require students to distinguish between credible and non-credible sources.

Possible Evidence

- Students make a claim explaining the phenomena (cycling of matter and flow of energy through ecosystems).
  - Students construct an explanation that includes the following:
    - Energy from photosynthesis and respiration drives the cycling of matter and flow of energy under aerobic or anaerobic conditions within an ecosystem.
    - Anaerobic respiration occurs primarily in conditions where oxygen is not available.
- Students identify and describe the evidence to construct the explanation, including the following:
  - All organisms take in matter and rearrange the atoms in chemical reactions.
  - Photosynthesis captures energy in sunlight to create chemical products that can be used as food in cellular respiration.
  - Cellular respiration is the process by which the matter in food (sugars, fats) reacts chemically with other compounds, rearranging the matter to release energy that is used by the cell for essential life processes.
- Students use a variety of valid and reliable sources for the evidence, which may include theories, simulations, peer review, and students' own investigations.
- Students use reasoning to connect evidence, along with the assumption that theories and laws that describe the natural world operate today as they did in the past and will continue to do so in the future, to construct their explanation. Students describe the following chain of reasoning used to construct their explanation:
  - Energy inputs to cells occur either by photosynthesis or by taking in food.
  - Since all cells engage in cellular respiration, they must all produce products of respiration.
  - The flow of matter into and out of cells must therefore be driven by the energy captured during photosynthesis or obtained by taking in food and released by respiration.

Sample Stems

○ The flow of matter and energy must occur whether respiration is aerobic or anaerobic. ● Given new data or information, students revise their explanation and justify the revision (e.g., recent discoveries of life surrounding deep sea ocean vents have shown that photosynthesis is not the only driver for cycling matter and energy in ecosystems).	
Stimulus Materials Graphic organizers, diagrams, graphs, data tables, drawings	

Grades 9-12 LIFE SCIENCE

Life Sciences		9-12.LS2.B.2
Core Idea	**Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics**	
Component	**Cycles of Matter and Energy Transfer in Ecosystems**	
MLS	Communicate the pattern of the cycling of matter and the flow of energy among trophic levels in an ecosystem.	

Expectation Unwrapped

[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on using a model of stored energy in biomass to describe the transfer of energy from one trophic level to another. Emphasis is on atoms and molecules as they move through an ecosystem. Mathematical representation could be, but is not limited to, data that has been manipulated, a data table, a graph, an equation, etc.]

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES

Using Mathematical and Computational Thinking

- Use mathematical representations of phenomena or design solutions to support claims.

DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS

Cycles of Matter and Energy Transfer in Ecosystems

- Plants or algae form the lowest level of the food web.
- At each link upward in a food web, only a small fraction of the matter consumed at the lower level is transferred upward, to produce growth and release energy in cellular respiration at the higher level.
- Given this inefficiency, there are generally fewer organisms at higher levels of a food web.
- Some matter reacts to release energy for life functions, some matter is stored in newly made structures, and much is discarded.
- The chemical elements that make up the molecules of organisms pass through food webs and into and out of the atmosphere and soil, and they are combined and recombined in different ways.
- At each link in an ecosystem, matter and energy are conserved.

CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS

Energy and Matter

- Energy cannot be created or destroyed; it only moves between one place and another place, between objects and/or fields, or between systems.

DOK Ceiling

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Item Format

Selected Response
Constructed Response
Technology Enhanced

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Content Limits/Assessment Boundaries

- Tasks should be limited to using proportional reasoning to describe the cycling of matter and the follow of energy.
- Tasks should not require students to develop a claim or generate a mathematical model.

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Sample Stems

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Possible Evidence

- Students identify and describe the components in the mathematical representations that are relevant to supporting the claims. The components could include relative quantities related to organisms, matter, energy, and the food web in an ecosystem.
- Students identify the claims about the cycling of matter and energy flow among organisms in an ecosystem.
- Students describe how the claims can be expressed as a mathematical relationship in the mathematical representations of the components of an ecosystem.
- Students use the mathematical representation(s) of the food web to
  - describe the transfer of matter (as atoms and molecules) and flow of energy upward between organisms and their environment.
  - identify the transfer of energy and matter between trophic levels.
  - identify the relative proportion of organisms at each trophic level by correctly identifying producers as the lowest trophic level and as having the greatest biomass and energy and consumers as decreasing in numbers at higher trophic levels.
- Students use the mathematical representation(s) to support the claims that include the idea that matter flows between organisms and their environment.
- Students use the mathematical representation(s) to support the claims that include the idea that energy flows from one trophic level to another as well as through the environment.
- Students analyze and use the mathematical representation(s) to account for the energy not transferred to higher trophic levels, which is instead used for growth, maintenance, or repair, and/or transferred to the environment, and for the inefficiencies in the transfer of matter and energy.

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Stimulus Materials

Graphic organizers, diagrams, graphs, data tables, drawings

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Grades 9-12 LIFE SCIENCE

Life Sciences		9-12.LS2.B.3
Core Idea	**Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics**	
Component	**Cycles of Matter and Energy Transfer in Ecosystems**	
MLS	Use a model that illustrates the roles of photosynthesis, cellular respiration, decomposition, and combustion to explain the cycling of carbon in its various forms among the biosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, and geosphere.	

Expectation Unwrapped	DOK Ceiling
[Clarification Statement: The primary forms of carbon include carbon dioxide, hydrocarbons, waste, and biomass. Examples of models could include simulations and mathematical and conceptual models.] **SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES** **Developing and Using Models** ● Develop a model based on evidence to illustrate the relationships between systems or components of a system. **DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS** **Cycles of Matter and Energy Transfer in Ecosystems** ● Photosynthesis and cellular respiration are important components of the carbon cycle, in which carbon is exchanged among the biosphere, atmosphere, oceans, and geosphere through chemical, physical, geological, and biological processes. **Energy in Chemical Processes** ● The main way that solar energy is captured and stored on Earth is through the complex chemical process known as photosynthesis. **CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS** **Systems and System Models** ● Models (e.g., physical, mathematical, computer models) can be used to simulate systems and interactions—including energy, matter, and information flows—within and between systems at different scales.	3 **Item Format** Selected Response Constructed Response Technology Enhanced

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Content Limits/Assessment Boundaries

- Tasks should focus on understanding the parts of the carbon cycle but should avoid the vocabulary (i.e., hydrosphere, atmosphere, geosphere, and/or biosphere).
- Tasks should avoid the specific chemical steps of photosynthesis, respiration, decomposition, and combustion.

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Sample Stems

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Possible Evidence

- Students use evidence from a given model in which they identify and describe the relevant components, including the following:
  - The inputs and outputs of photosynthesis
  - The inputs and outputs of cellular respiration
  - The biosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, and geosphere
- Students describe relationships between components of the given model, including the following:
  - The exchange of carbon (through carbon-containing compounds) between organisms and the environment
  - The role of storing carbon in organisms (in the form of carbon-containing compounds) as part of the carbon cycle
- Students describe the contribution of photosynthesis and cellular respiration to the exchange of carbon within and among the biosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, and geosphere in the given model.
- Students make a distinction between the model's simulation and the actual cycling of carbon via photosynthesis and cellular respiration.

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Stimulus Materials

Graphic organizers, diagrams, graphs, data tables, drawings

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</table>

Grades 9-12 LIFE SCIENCE

Life Sciences		9-12.LS2.C.1
Core Idea	**Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics**	
Component	**Ecosystems Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience**	
MLS	Evaluate the claims, evidence, and reasoning that the interactions in ecosystems maintain relatively consistent populations of species while conditions remain stable, but changing conditions may result in new ecosystem dynamics.	

Expectation Unwrapped	DOK Ceiling
[Clarification Statement: Examples of changes in ecosystem conditions could include modest biological or physical changes, such as moderate hunting or a seasonal flood; and extreme changes, such as volcanic eruption or sea level rise. New ecosystem dynamics should be interpreted as characteristics of that new ecosystem.] **SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES** **Engaging in Argument from Evidence** ● Evaluate the claims, evidence, and reasoning behind currently accepted explanations or solutions to determine the merits of arguments. **Connections to Nature of Science: Scientific Knowledge Is Open to Revision in Light of New Evidence** ● Scientific argumentation is a mode of logical discourse used to clarify the strength of relationships between ideas and evidence that may result in revision of an explanation. **DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS** **Ecosystems Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience** ● A complex set of interactions within an ecosystem can keep the ecosystem's numbers and types of organisms relatively constant over long periods of time under stable conditions. ● If a modest biological or physical disturbance to an ecosystem occurs, it may return to its more or less original status (i.e., the ecosystem is resilient) as opposed to becoming a very different ecosystem. ● Extreme fluctuations in conditions or the size of any population, however, can challenge the functioning of ecosystems in terms of resources and habitat availability. **CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS** **Stability and Change** ● Much of science deals with constructing explanations of how things change and how they remain stable. Refer to Engineering, Technology, and Application of Science 9-12.ETS1.B.1.	3 **Item Format** Selected Response Constructed Response Technology Enhanced

Content Limits/Assessment Boundaries

- Tasks should provide students with a specific claim to evaluate. Students are not required to generate their own claims.
- Tasks should include adequate background information on an ecosystem to draw any necessary conclusions.

Possible Evidence

- Students identify the given explanation that is supported by the claims, evidence, and reasoning to be evaluated, and which includes the following idea: The complex interactions in ecosystems maintain relatively consistent numbers and types of organisms in stable conditions, but changing conditions may result in a new ecosystem.
  - From the given materials, students identify
    - the claims to be evaluated.
    - the evidence to be evaluated.
    - the reasoning to be evaluated.
- Students identify and describe additional evidence (in the form of data, information, or other appropriate forms) that was not provided but is relevant to the explanation and to evaluating the given claims, evidence, and reasoning:
  - The factors that affect biodiversity
  - The relationships between species and the physical environment in an ecosystem
  - Changes in the numbers of species and organisms in an ecosystem that has been subject to a modest or extreme change in ecosystem conditions
- Students describe the strengths and weaknesses of the given claim in accurately explaining a particular response of biodiversity to a changing condition, based on an understanding of the factors that affect biodiversity and the relationships between species and the physical environment in an ecosystem.
- Students use their additional evidence to assess the validity and reliability of the given evidence and its ability to support the argument that resiliency of an ecosystem is subject to the degree of change in the biological and physical environment of an ecosystem.
- Students assess the logic of the reasoning, including the relationship between degree of change and stability in ecosystems, and the utility of the reasoning in supporting the explanation of how
  - modest biological or physical disturbances in an ecosystem result in maintenance of relatively consistent numbers and types of organisms.

Sample Stems

◦ extreme fluctuations in conditions or the size of any population can challenge the functioning of ecosystems in terms of resources and habitat availability and can even result in a new ecosystem.	
Stimulus Materials Graphic organizers, diagrams, graphs, data tables, drawings	

Grades 9-12 LIFE SCIENCE

Life Sciences		9-12.LS2.C.2
Core Idea	**Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics**	
Component	**Ecosystems Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience**	
MLS	Design, evaluate, and/or refine solutions that positively impact the environment and biodiversity.	

Expectation Unwrapped	DOK Ceiling
[Clarification Statement: Examples of solutions may include captive breeding programs, habitat restoration, pollution mitigation, energy conservation, agriculture and mining programs, and ecotourism.] **SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES** **Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions** ● Design, evaluate, and refine a solution to a complex real-world problem, based on scientific knowledge, student-generated sources of evidence, prioritized criteria, and tradeoff considerations. **DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS** **Ecosystems, Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience** ● Anthropogenic changes (changes induced by human activity) in the environment—including habitat destruction, pollution, introduction of invasive species, overexploitation, and climate change—can disrupt an ecosystem and threaten the survival of some species. **Biodiversity and Humans** ● Biodiversity is increased by the formation of new species (speciation) and decreased by the loss of species (extinction). ● Humans depend on the living world for the resources and other benefits provided by biodiversity. But human activity is also having adverse impacts on biodiversity through overpopulation, overexploitation, habitat destruction, pollution, introduction of invasive species, and climate change. Thus, sustaining biodiversity so that ecosystem functioning and productivity are maintained is essential to supporting and enhancing life on Earth. ● Sustaining biodiversity also aids humanity by preserving landscapes of recreational or inspirational value. (Note: This Disciplinary Core Idea is also addressed by HS- LS4-6.) **Developing Possible Solutions** ● When evaluating solutions, it is important to take into account a range of constraints including cost, safety, reliability, and aesthetics and to consider social, cultural, and environmental impacts.	3 **Item Format** Selected Response Constructed Response Technology Enhanced

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<u>CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS</u>
Stability and Change
Much of science deals with constructing explanations of how things change and how they remain stable.
Refer to Engineering, Technology, and Application of Science 9-12.ETS.1.A.2.
</td><td></td></tr>
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<u>Content Limits/Assessment Boundaries</u>

Tasks should include a scenario. Students are not required to generate their own scenario.
Tasks do not need to address all three parts of the solution: define, evaluate, or refine.

</td><td rowspan="2">

<u>Sample Stems</u>
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<tr><td>

<u>Possible Evidence</u>

Students design a solution that increases positive impact on the environment and biodiversity and that relies on scientific knowledge of the factors affecting changes and stability in biodiversity. Examples of factors include, but are not limited to,

overpopulation,
overexploitation,
habitat destruction,
pollution,
introduction of invasive species, and
changes in climate.

Students describe the ways the proposed solution increases the positive impacts on the environment and biodiversity.
Students describe and quantify (when appropriate) the criteria (amount of the effect as it impacts the environment and biodiversity) and limitations (constraints) (for example, cost, human needs, and environmental impacts) for the solution to the problem, along with the trade-offs in the solution.
Students evaluate the proposed solution for its impact on overall environmental stability and changes.
Students evaluate the cost, safety, and reliability, as well as social, cultural, and environmental impacts, of the proposed solution that will benefit an ecosystem.
Students refine the proposed solution by prioritizing the criteria and making trade-offs as necessary to further positively impact the environment and biodiversity while addressing human needs.

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Grades 9-12 LIFE SCIENCE

<u>Stimulus Materials</u> Graphic organizers, diagrams, graphs, data tables, drawings	

Grades 9-12 LIFE SCIENCE

Life Sciences		9-12.LS3.A.1
Core Idea	Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits	
Component	Inheritance of Traits	
MLS	Develop and use models to clarify relationships about how DNA in the form of chromosomes is passed from parents to offspring through the processes of meiosis and fertilization in sexual reproduction.	

Expectation Unwrapped	DOK Ceiling
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SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES **Asking Questions and Defining Problems** ● Ask questions that arise from examining models or a theory to clarify relationships. **DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS** **Structure and Function** ● All cells contain genetic information in the form of DNA molecules. ● Genes are regions in the DNA that contain the instructions that code for the formation of proteins. (Note: This Disciplinary Core Idea is also addressed by HS-LS1-1.) **Inheritance of Traits** ● Each chromosome consists of a single very long DNA molecule, and each gene on the chromosome is a particular segment of that DNA. ● The instructions for forming species' characteristics are carried in DNA. ● All cells in an organism have the same genetic content, but the genes used (expressed) by the cell may be regulated in different ways. ● Not all DNA codes for a protein; some segments of DNA are involved in regulatory or structural functions, and some have no as-yet known function. **CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS** **Cause and Effect** ● Empirical evidence is required to differentiate between cause and correlation and make claims about specific causes and effects.	**Item Format** Selected Response Constructed Response Technology Enhanced

<table>
<tr><th>Content Limits/Assessment Boundaries</th><th>Sample Stems</th></tr>
<tr><td>● Tasks should focus on the division of DNA to create haploid gametes, as well as the combination of gametes in the process of fertilization to create a diploid cell.
● Tasks should avoid rote memorization of the phases of meiosis or the biochemical mechanisms of specific steps in the process.
● Tasks should avoid the concepts of independent assortment and crossing over.</td><td rowspan="6"></td></tr>
<tr><td>Possible Evidence</td></tr>
<tr><td>● Students develop a model in which they identify and describe the relevant parts of the process (e.g, DNA in the form of chromosomes, gametes, fertilization).
● In the model, students describe the relationships between the components, including the following:
○ The cause and effect relationship between DNA, the proteins it codes for, and the resulting traits observed in an organism
○ The process of meiosis
○ The process of fertilization through sexual reproduction
● Students use the model to illustrate the interaction between components of the model and the resulting traits being passed from generation to generation through sexual reproduction.
● Students make a distinction between the accuracy of the model and actual body processes.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Stimulus Materials</td></tr>
<tr><td>Graphic organizers, diagrams, graphs, data tables, drawings</td></tr>
</table>

Grades 9-12 LIFE SCIENCE

Life Sciences		9-12.LS3.B.1
Core Idea	**Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits**	
Component	**Variation of Traits**	
MLS	Compare and contrast asexual and sexual reproduction with regard to genetic information and variation in offspring.	

Expectation Unwrapped

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES
Developing a Model
- Develop and use a model based on evidence to illustrate the relationships between systems or between components of a system.

Obtaining, Evaluating and Communicating Information
- Communicate scientific information (e.g., about phenomena and/or the process of development and the design and performance of a proposed process or system) in multiple formats, including orally, graphically, textually, and mathematically.

DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS
Variation of Traits
- In sexual reproduction, chromosomes can sometimes swap sections during the process of meiosis (cell division), thereby creating new genetic combinations and thus more genetic variation.
- Although DNA replication is tightly regulated and remarkably accurate, errors do occur and result in mutations, which are also a source of genetic variation.
- Environmental factors can also cause mutations in genes, and viable mutations are inherited.
- Environmental factors also affect expression of traits, and hence affect the probability of occurrences of traits in a population. Thus the variation and distribution of traits observed depends on both genetic and environmental factors.

Characteristics of Asexual and Sexual Reproduction
- Asexual reproduction produces genetically identical offspring, whereas sexual reproduction produces genetic variation.

CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS
Cause and Effect
- Empirical evidence is required to differentiate between cause and correlation and make claims about specific causes and effects.

DOK Ceiling
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Item Format
Selected Response
Constructed Response
Technology Enhanced

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Content Limits/Assessment Boundaries

- Tasks should focus on comparing and contrasting the processes of sexual and asexual reproduction.
- Tasks should avoid the different types of sexual and asexual reproduction (e.g., budding, internal, external, binary fusion).

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Sample Stems

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Possible Evidence

- Students develop a visual representation in which they compare and contrast asexual and sexual reproduction (e.g., mitosis, meiosis, haploid, diploid, genetic diversity).
- Students describe the relationships between sexual and asexual reproduction:
  - The relationship between mitosis and asexual reproduction
  - The relationship between meiosis and sexual reproduction
  - The process of fertilization through sexual reproduction

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Stimulus Materials

Graphic organizers, diagrams, graphs, data tables, drawings

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Grades 9-12 LIFE SCIENCE

Life Sciences		9-12.LS3.B.2
Core Idea Component MLS	**Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits** **Variation of Traits** Develop and use a model to describe why structural changes to genes (mutations) located on chromosomes may affect proteins and may result in harmful, beneficial, or neutral effects to the structure and function of the organism.	
Expectation Unwrapped [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on conceptual understanding that changes in genetic material may or may not result in making different proteins.] **SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES** **Developing and Using Models** ● Use a model based on evidence to illustrate the relationships between systems or between components of a system. **DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS** **Variation of Traits** ● In sexual reproduction, chromosomes can sometimes swap sections during the process of meiosis (cell division), thereby creating new genetic combinations and thus more genetic variation. ● Although DNA replication is tightly regulated and remarkably accurate, errors do occur and result in mutations, which are also a source of genetic variation. ● Environmental factors can also cause mutations in genes, and viable mutations are inherited. ● Environmental factors also affect expression of traits, and hence affect the probability of occurrences of traits in a population. Thus the variation and distribution of traits observed depends on both genetic and environmental factors. **CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS** **Cause and Effect** ● Empirical evidence is required to differentiate between cause and correlation and make claims about specific causes and effects. **Stability and Change** ● Much of science deals with constructing explanations of how things change and how they remain stable.		**DOK Ceiling** 3 **Item Format** Selected Response Constructed Response Technology Enhanced

Systems and System Models ● Models (e.g., physical, mathematical, computer) can be used to simulate systems and interactions—including energy, matter and information flows—within and between systems at different scales.	
Content Limits/Assessment Boundaries ● Tasks should provide students with adequate background information for any given genetic disorder. ● Tasks should avoid identifying specific types of mutations (e.g., frameshift, point), specific changes at the molecular level, and the mechanisms for protein synthesis.	**Sample Stems**
Possible Evidence ● Students develop a model in which they identify and describe the following: ○ Structural changes to DNA ○ The effects of the structural changes to DNA ● In the model, students describe the relationships between components, including the relationship between genotype and phenotype. ● Students use the model to illustrate the structure and function of the organism and the organism's overall fitness. ● Students make a distinction between the accuracy of the model and actual body processes.	
Stimulus Materials Graphic organizers, diagrams, graphs, data tables, drawings	

Grades 9-12 LIFE SCIENCE

Life Sciences		9-12.LS3.B.3
Core Idea	**Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits**	
Component	**Variation of Traits**	
MLS	Make and defend a claim that inheritable genetic variations may result from: (1) new genetic combinations through meiosis, (2) mutations occurring during replication, and/or (3) mutations caused by environmental factors.	

Expectation Unwrapped

[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on using data to support arguments for the way variation occurs (e.g., crossing over, independent assortment, mutations from replication, mutations from environmental factors).]

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES
Engaging in Argument from Evidence
- Make and defend a claim based on evidence about the natural world that reflects scientific knowledge and student-generated evidence.

DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS
Variation of Traits
- In sexual reproduction, chromosomes can sometimes swap sections during the process of meiosis (cell division), thereby creating new genetic combinations and thus more genetic variation.
- Although DNA replication is tightly regulated and remarkably accurate, errors do occur and result in mutations, which are also a source of genetic variation.
- Environmental factors can also cause mutations in genes, and viable mutations are inherited.
- Environmental factors also affect expression of traits, and hence affect the probability of occurrences of traits in a population. Thus the variation and distribution of traits observed depends on both genetic and environmental factors.

CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS
Cause and Effect
- Empirical evidence is required to differentiate between cause and correlation and make claims about specific causes and effects.

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Content Limits/Assessment Boundaries

- Tasks should avoid the phases of meiosis or the biochemical mechanism (e.g., centrioles, spindle fibers) of specific steps in the process.

Possible Evidence

- Students make a claim that includes the idea that inheritable genetic variations may result from
  - new genetic combinations through meiosis,
  - viable errors occurring during replication, and
  - mutations caused by environmental factors.
- Students identify and describe evidence that supports the claim, including the following:
  - Variations in genetic material naturally result during meiosis when corresponding sections of chromosome pairs exchange places.
  - Genetic mutations can occur due to
    - errors during replication and/or
    - environmental factors.
  - Genetic material is inheritable.
- Students use scientific knowledge, literature, student-generated data (e.g., may include by not limited to, comparison of RNA strand to DNA, data collected through a technology-enhanced computer simulation), simulations, and/or other sources for evidence.
- Students identify the following strengths and weaknesses of the evidence used to support the claim:
  - Types and numbers of sources
  - Sufficiency to make and defend the claim and to distinguish between causal and correlational relationships
  - Validity and reliability of the evidence
- Students use reasoning to describe links between the evidence and claim, including the following:
  - Genetic mutations produce genetic variations between cells or organisms.
  - Genetic variations produced by mutation and meiosis can be inherited.
- Students use reasoning and valid evidence to describe how new combinations of DNA can arise from several sources, including meiosis, errors during replication, and mutations caused by environmental factors.
- Students defend a claim against counterclaims and critique by evaluating counterclaims and by describing the connections between the relevant and appropriate evidence and the strongest claim.

Sample Stems

Grades 9-12 LIFE SCIENCE

<u>Stimulus Materials</u> Graphic organizers, diagrams, graphs, data tables, drawings	

Grades 9-12 LIFE SCIENCE

Life Sciences		9-12.LS3.B.4
Core Idea	**Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits**	
Component	**Variation of Traits**	
MLS	Apply concepts of statistics and probability to explain the variation and distribution of expressed traits in a population.	

Expectation Unwrapped

[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the use of mathematics (Punnett squares) to describe the probability of traits as it relates to genetic and environmental factors in the expression of traits.]

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES

Analyzing and Interpreting Data

- Apply concepts of statistics and probability (including determining function fits to data, slope, intercept, and correlation coefficient for linear fits) to scientific and engineering questions and problems, using digital tools when feasible.

DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS

Variation of Traits

- Environmental factors also affect expression of traits, and hence affect the probability of occurrences of traits in a population. Thus, the variation and distribution of traits observed depends on both genetic and environmental factors.

CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS

Scale, Proportion, and Quantity

- Algebraic thinking is used to examine scientific data and predict the effect of a change in one variable on another (e.g., linear growth vs. exponential growth).

Science Is a Human Endeavor

- Technological advances have influenced the progress of science, and science has influenced advances in technology.
- Science and engineering are influenced by society, and society is influenced by science and engineering.

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Content Limits/Assessment Boundaries	Sample Stems
• Tasks should avoid Hardy-Weinberg calculations and dihybrid crosses. • Tasks should not require students to calculate the probability of polygenic traits. • Tasks should include support or context for any mode of inheritance beyond complete dominance.	
Possible Evidence	

• Students organize the given data by the frequency, distribution, and variation of expressed traits in the population.
• Students perform and use appropriate statistical analyses of data, including probability measures, to determine the relationship between a trait's occurrence within a population and environmental factors.
• Students analyze and interpret data to explain the distribution of expressed traits, including the following:
  ○ Recognition and use of patterns in the statistical analysis to predict changes in trait distribution within a population if environmental variables change
  ○ Description of the expression of a chosen trait and its variations as causative or correlational to some environmental factor based on reliable evidence	

Stimulus Materials	
Graphic organizers, diagrams, graphs, data tables, drawings	

Grades 9-12 LIFE SCIENCE

Life Sciences		9-12.LS4.A.1
Core Idea	**Biological Evolution; Unity and Diversity**	
Component	**Evidence of Common Ancestry and Diversity**	
MLS	Communicate scientific information that common ancestry and biological evolution are supported by multiple lines of empirical evidence.	

Expectation Unwrapped	**DOK Ceiling**
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[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on a conceptual understanding of the role each line of evidence has relating to common ancestry and biological evolution. Examples of evidence could include, but are not limited to, similarities in DNA sequences, anatomical structures, and order of appearance of structures in embryological development. Communicate could include, but is not limited to, written report, and oral discussion]	**Item Format** Selected Response Constructed Response Technology Enhanced

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES

Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information

- Communicate scientific information (e.g., about phenomena and/or the process of development and the design and performance of a proposed process or system) in multiple formats (including orally, graphically, textually, and mathematically).

Science Models, Laws, Mechanisms, and Theories Explain Natural Phenomena

- A scientific theory is a substantiated explanation of some aspect of the natural world, based on a body of facts that have been repeatedly confirmed through observation and experiment and the science community validates each theory before it is accepted.
- If new evidence is discovered that the theory does not accommodate, the theory is generally modified in light of this new evidence.

DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS

Evidence of Common Ancestry and Diversity

- Genetic information, like the fossil record, provides evidence of evolution.
- DNA sequences vary among species, but there are many overlaps; in fact, the ongoing branching that produces multiple lines of descent can be inferred by comparing the DNA sequences of different organisms.
- Such information is also derivable from the similarities and differences in amino acid sequences and from anatomical and embryological evidence.

<table>
<tr><td>
<u>CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS</u>
Patterns
Different patterns may be observed at each of the scales at which a system is studied and can provide evidence for causality in explanations of phenomena.
Scientific Knowledge Assumes an Order and Consistency in Natural Systems
Scientific knowledge is based on the assumption that natural laws operate today as they did in the past and that they will continue to do so in the future.
</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>
<u>Content Limits/Assessment Boundaries</u>
Tasks should avoid an analysis of phylogenetic trees as a form of empirical evidence.
Tasks should not require correct citation of information.
</td><td rowspan="2"><u>Sample Stems</u></td></tr>
<tr><td>
<u>Possible Evidence</u>
Students use at least one format (e.g., oral, graphical, textual, mathematical), to communicate scientific information including that common ancestry and biological evolution are supported by multiple lines of empirical evidence. Students cite the origin of the information as appropriate.
Students identify and communicate evidence for common ancestry and biological evolution, including the following:
Information derived from DNA sequences, which vary among species but have many similarities between species
Similarities of the patterns of amino acid sequences, even when DNA sequences are slightly different, including the fact that multiple patterns of DNA sequences can code for the same amino acid
Patterns in the fossil record (e.g., presence, location, and inferences possible in lines of evolutionary descent for multiple specimens)
The pattern of anatomical and embryological similarities
Students identify and communicate connections between each line of evidence and the claim of common ancestry and biological evolution.
Students communicate that together, the patterns observed at multiple spatial and temporal scales (e.g., DNA sequences, embryological development, fossil records) provide evidence for causal relationships relating to biological evolution and common ancestry.
</td></tr>
</table>

Grades 9-12 LIFE SCIENCE

Stimulus Materials	
Graphic organizers, diagrams, graphs, data tables, drawings	

Grades 9-12 LIFE SCIENCE

Life Sciences		9-12.LS4.A.2
Core Idea	**Biological Evolution; Unity and Diversity**	
Component	**Evidence of Common Ancestry and Diversity**	
MLS	Analyze displays of pictorial data to compare patterns of similarities in the embryological development across multiple species to identify relationships not evident in the fully formed anatomy.	

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Expectation Unwrapped

[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on inferring general patterns of relatedness among embryos of different organisms by comparing the macroscopic appearance of diagrams or pictures.]

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES
Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information
- Communicate scientific information (e.g., about phenomena and/or the process of development and the design and performance of a proposed process or system) in multiple formats (including orally, graphically, textually, and mathematically).

Science Models, Laws, Mechanisms, and Theories Explain Natural Phenomena
- A scientific theory is a substantiated explanation of some aspect of the natural world, based on a body of facts that have been repeatedly confirmed through observation and experiment and the science community validates each theory before it is accepted.
- If new evidence is discovered that the theory does not accommodate, the theory is generally modified in light of this new evidence.

DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS
Evidence of Common Ancestry and Diversity
- Genetic information, like the fossil record, provides evidence of evolution. DNA sequences vary among species, but there are many overlaps; in fact, the ongoing branching that produces multiple lines of descent can be inferred by comparing the DNA sequences of different organisms. Such information is also derivable from the similarities and differences in amino acid sequences and from anatomical and embryological evidence.

CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS
Patterns
- Different patterns may be observed at each of the scales at which a system is studied and can provide evidence for causality in explanations of phenomena.

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Grades 9-12 LIFE SCIENCE

Refer to Engineering, Technology, and Application of Science ETS.1.A.1.	
Content Limits/Assessment Boundaries ● Tasks should include embryological pictures of organisms that are familiar to students (e.g., fish, turtle, pig, chicken). ● Tasks should be limited to easily identifiable anatomical structures (e.g., head, appendages, tail). ● Tasks should avoid cell differentiation (e.g., germ layers).	**Sample Stems**
Possible Evidence ● Students analyze pictorial data. In their analysis, students ○ compare patterns of similarities across multiple species, ○ describe common physical characteristics, and ○ compare and contrast embryological features to fully formed anatomy of organisms.	
Stimulus Materials Graphic organizers, diagrams, graphs, data tables, drawings	

Grades 9-12 LIFE SCIENCE

Life Sciences		9-12.LS4.B.1
Core Idea **Component** **MLS**	**Biological Evolution; Unity and Diversity** **Natural Selection** Construct an explanation based on evidence that the process of evolution primarily results from four factors: (1) the potential for a species to increase in number, (2) the heritable genetic variation of individuals in a species due to mutation and sexual reproduction, (3) competition for limited resources, and (4) the proliferation of those organisms that are better able to survive and reproduce in the environment.	

Expectation Unwrapped	DOK Ceiling
[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on using evidence to explain the influence each of the four factors has on number of organisms, behaviors, morphology, or physiology in terms of ability to compete for limited resources and subsequent survival of individuals and adaptation of species. Examples of evidence could include mathematical models such as simple distribution graphs and proportional reasoning.] **SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES** **Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions** ● Construct an explanation based on valid and reliable evidence obtained from a variety of sources (including students' own investigations, models, theories, simulations, peer review) and the assumption that theories and laws that describe the natural world operate today as they did in the past and will continue to do so in the future. **DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS** **Natural Selection** ● Natural selection occurs only if there is both (1) variation in the genetic information between organisms in a population and (2) variation in the expression of that genetic information—that is, trait variation—that leads to differences in performance among individuals. **Adaptation** ● Evolution is a consequence of the interaction of four factors: (1) the potential for a species to increase in number, (2) the genetic variation of individuals in a species due to mutation and sexual reproduction, (3) competition for an environment's limited supply of the resources that individuals need in order to survive and reproduce, and (4) the ensuing proliferation of those organisms that are better able to survive and reproduce in that environment.	3 **Item Format** Selected Response Constructed Response Technology Enhanced

CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS **Cause and Effect** ● Empirical evidence is required to differentiate between cause and correlation and make claims about specific causes and effects.	
Content Limits/Assessment Boundaries ● Tasks should avoid other mechanisms of evolution (e.g., genetic drive, gene flow through migration, co-evolution). ● Tasks should not require students to differentiate between credible and non-credible sources.	**Sample Stems**
Possible Evidence ● Students construct an explanation that includes a description that evolution is caused primarily by one or more of the four factors: (1) the potential for a species to increase in number, (2) the heritable genetic variation of individuals in a species due to mutation and sexual reproduction, (3) competition for limited resources, and (4) the proliferation of those organisms that are better able to survive and reproduce in the environment. ● Students identify and describe evidence to construct their explanation, including that ○ as a species grows in number, competition for limited resources can arise. ○ individuals in a species have genetic variation (through mutations and sexual reproduction) that is passed on to their offspring. ○ individuals can have specific traits that give them a competitive advantage relative to other individuals in the species. ● Students use a variety of valid and reliable sources for evidence (e.g., data from investigations, theories, simulations, peer review). ● Students use reasoning to connect the evidence, along with the assumption that theories and laws that describe the natural world operate today as they did in the past and will continue to do so in the future, to construct the explanation. Students describe the following chain of reasoning for their explanation: ○ Genetic variation can lead to variation of expressed traits in individuals in a population. ○ Individuals with traits that give competitive advantages can survive and reproduce at higher rates than individuals without the traits because of the competition for limited resources. ○ Individuals that survive and reproduce at a higher rate will provide their specific genetic variations to a greater proportion of individuals in the next generation. ○ Over many generations, groups of individuals with particular traits that enable them to survive and reproduce in distinct environments using distinct resources can evolve into a different species.	

• Students use the evidence to describe the following in their explanation:
  ○ The difference between natural selection and biological evolution (i.e., natural selection is a process, and biological evolution can result from that process)
  ○ The cause and effect relationship between genetic variation, the selection of traits that provide comparative advantages, and the evolution of populations that all express the trait	

<u>Stimulus Materials</u> Graphic organizers, diagrams, graphs, data tables, drawings	

Grades 9-12 LIFE SCIENCE

Life Sciences		9-12.LS4.B.2
Core Idea	**Biological Evolution; Unity and Diversity**	
Component	**Natural Selection**	
MLS	Apply concepts of statistics and probability to support explanations that organisms with an advantageous heritable trait tend to increase in proportion to organisms lacking this trait.	

Expectation Unwrapped

[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on analyzing shifts in numerical distribution of traits and using these shifts as evidence to support explanations.]

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES

Analyzing and Interpreting Data

- Apply concepts of statistics and probability (including determining function fits to data, slope, intercept, and correlation coefficient for linear fits) to scientific and engineering questions and problems, using digital tools when feasible.

DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS

Natural Selection

- Natural selection occurs only if there is both (1) variation in the genetic information between organisms in a population and (2) variation in the expression of that genetic information—that is, trait variation—that leads to differences in performance among individuals.
- The traits that positively affect survival are more likely to be reproduced and thus are more common in the population.

Adaptation

- Natural selection leads to adaptation, that is, to a population dominated by organisms that are anatomically, behaviorally, and physiologically well suited to survive and reproduce in a specific environment. That is, the differential survival and reproduction of organisms in a population that have an advantageous heritable trait leads to an increase in the proportion of individuals in future generations that have the trait and to a decrease in the proportion of individuals that do not.
- Adaptation also means that the distribution of traits in a population can change when conditions change.

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<table>
<tr><td>

<u>**CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS**</u>
Patterns
Different patterns may be observed at each of the scales at which a system is studied and can provide evidence for causality in explanations of phenomena.

</td><td></td></tr>
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<u>**Content Limits/Assessment Boundaries**</u>
Tasks should be limited to basic statistical and graphical analyses.
Tasks should avoid allele frequency calculations. Students should be given all needed allele frequencies.

</td><td rowspan="3">

<u>**Sample Stems**</u>

</td></tr>
<tr><td>

<u>**Possible Evidence**</u>
Students organize data (e.g., using tables, graphs, charts) by the distribution of genetic traits over time.
Students describe what each dataset represents.
Students perform and use appropriate statistical analyses of data, including probability measures, to determine patterns of change in numerical distribution of traits over various time and population scales.
Students use the data analyses as evidence to support explanations about the following:
Positive or negative effects on survival and reproduction of individuals as relating to their expression of a variable trait in a population
Natural selection as the cause of increases and decreases in heritable traits over time in a population, but only if it affects reproductive success
The changes in distribution of adaptations of anatomical, behavioral, and physiological traits in a population

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<u>**Stimulus Materials**</u>

Graphic organizers, diagrams, graphs, data tables, drawings

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</table>

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<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">Life Sciences</th><th>9-12.LS4.C.1</th></tr>
<tr><td>Core Idea
Component
MLS</td><td colspan="2">Biological Evolution; Unity and Diversity
Adaptation
Construct an explanation based on evidence for how natural selection leads to adaptation of populations.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2" rowspan="2"><u>Expectation Unwrapped</u>

[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on using data to provide evidence for how specific biotic and abiotic differences in ecosystems (such as ranges of seasonal temperature, long-term climate change, acidity, light, geographic barriers, or evolution of other organisms) contribute to a change in gene frequency over time, leading to adaptation of populations.]

<u>SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES</u>
Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions
● Construct an explanation based on valid and reliable evidence obtained from a variety of sources (including students’ own investigations, models, theories, simulations, peer review), and the assumption that theories and laws that describe the natural world operate today as they did in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

<u>DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS</u>
Adaptation
● Natural selection leads to adaptation, that is, to a population dominated by organisms that are anatomically, behaviorally, and physiologically well suited to survive and reproduce in a specific environment. That is, the differential survival and reproduction of organisms in a population that have an advantageous heritable trait leads to an increase in the proportion of individuals in future generations that have the trait and to a decrease in the proportion of individuals that do not.

<u>CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS</u>
Cause and Effect
● Empirical evidence is required to differentiate between cause and correlation and to make claims about specific causes and effects.

Scientific Knowledge Assumes an Order and Consistency in Natural Systems
● Scientific knowledge is based on the assumption that natural laws operate today as they did in the past and will continue to do so in the future.</td><td><u>DOK Ceiling</u>
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<tr><td><u>Item Format</u>
Selected Response
Constructed Response
Technology Enhanced</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><th>Content Limits/Assessment Boundaries</th><th rowspan="6">Sample Stems</th></tr>
<tr><td>Tasks should provide students with data to interpret.
Tasks should not require students to distinguish between credible and non-credible sources.
Tasks should not require students to calculate gene frequency.</td></tr>
<tr><th>Possible Evidence</th></tr>
<tr><td>Students construct an explanation that identifies the cause and effect relationship between natural selection and adaptation.
Students identify and describe the evidence to construct their explanation, including the following:
Changes in a population when some feature of the environment changes
Relative survival rates of organisms with different traits in a specific environment
The fact that individual organisms in a species have genetic variation (through mutations and sexual reproduction) that is passed on to their offspring
The fact that individual organisms can have specific traits that give them a competitive advantage relative to other individual organisms in the species
Students use a variety of valid and reliable sources for the evidence (e.g., theories, simulations, peer review, students' own investigations).
Students use reasoning to synthesize the valid and reliable evidence to distinguish between cause and correlation to construct the explanation about how natural selection provides a mechanism for species to adapt to changes in their environment, including the following elements:
Biotic and abiotic differences in ecosystems contribute to changes in gene frequency over time through natural selection.
Increasing gene frequency in a population results in an increasing fraction of the population in each successive generation that carries a particular gene and expresses a particular trait.
Over time, this process leads to a population that is adapted to a particular environment through the widespread expression of a trait that confers a competitive advantage in that environment.</td></tr>
<tr><th>Stimulus Materials</th></tr>
<tr><td>Graphic organizers, diagrams, graphs, data tables, drawings</td></tr>
</table>

Life Sciences		9-12.LS4.C.2
Core Idea Component MLS	**Biological Evolution; Unity and Diversity** **Adaptation** Evaluate the evidence supporting claims that changes in environmental conditions may result in (1) increases in the number of individuals of some species, (2) the emergence of new species over time, and (3) the extinction of other species.	
Expectation Unwrapped [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on determining cause and effect relationships for how changes to the environment such as deforestation, fishing, application of fertilizers, droughts, flood, and the rate of change of the environment affect distribution or disappearance of traits in species.] **SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES** **Engaging in Argument from Evidence** ● Evaluate the evidence behind currently accepted explanations or solutions to determine the merits of arguments. **DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS** **Adaptation** ● Changes in the physical environment, whether naturally occurring or human induced, have thus contributed to the expansion of some species, the emergence of new distinct species as populations diverge under different conditions, and the decline—and sometimes the extinction—of some species. ● Species become extinct because they can no longer survive and reproduce in their altered environment. If members cannot adjust to change that is too fast or drastic, the opportunity for the species' evolution is lost. **CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS** **Cause and Effect** ● Empirical evidence is required to differentiate between cause and correlation and to make claims about specific causes and effects.		**DOK Ceiling** 3 **Item Format** Selected Response Constructed Response Technology Enhanced
Content Limits/Assessment Boundaries ● Tasks should provide students with a claim and initial evidence for evaluation. ● Tasks should not require students to use group behavior as a source of support.		**Sample Stems**

Possible Evidence

- Students identify the given claims, which include the idea that changes in environmental conditions may result in
  - increases in the number of individual organisms of some species;
  - the emergence of new species over time, and
  - the extinction of other species.
- Students identify and describe additional evidence (in the form of data, information, models, or other appropriate forms) that was not provided but is relevant to the claims and to evaluating the given evidence, including the following:
  - Data indicating the change over time in
    - the number of individual organisms in each species,
    - the number of species in an environment, and
    - the environmental conditions.
  - Environmental factors that can determine the ability of individual organisms in a species to survive and reproduce
- Students use their additional evidence to assess the validity, reliability, strengths, and weaknesses of the given evidence, along with its ability to support logical and reasonable arguments about the outcomes of group behavior.
- Students assess the ability of the given evidence to be used to determine causal or correlational effects between environmental changes, the changes in the number of individuals in each species, the number of species in an environment, and/or the emergence or extinction of species
- Students evaluate the degree to which the given empirical evidence can be used to construct logical arguments that identify causal links between environmental changes and changes in the number of individual organisms or species based on environmental factors that can determine the ability of individual organisms in a species to survive and reproduce.

Stimulus Materials

Graphic organizers, diagrams, graphs, data tables, drawings

Life Sciences		9-12.LS4.C.3
Core Idea Component MLS	**Biological Evolution; Unity and Diversity** **Adaptation** Create or revise a model to test a solution to mitigate adverse impacts of human activity on biodiversity.	

Expectation Unwrapped	DOK Ceiling
[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on designing solutions for a proposed problem related to threatened or endangered species or to genetic variation of organisms for multiple species.] **SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES** **Mathematics and Computational Thinking** ● Create or revise a simulation of a phenomenon, designed device, process, or system. **DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS** **Adaptation** ● Changes in the physical environment, whether naturally occurring or human induced, have thus contributed to the expansion of some species, the emergence of new distinct species as populations diverge under different conditions, and the decline—and sometimes the extinction—of some species. **Biodiversity and Humans** ● Humans depend on the living world for the resources and other benefits provided by biodiversity. ● But human activity is also having adverse impacts on biodiversity through overpopulation, overexploitation, habitat destruction, pollution, introduction of invasive species, and climate change. Thus sustaining biodiversity so that ecosystem functioning and productivity are maintained is essential to supporting and enhancing life on Earth. ● Sustaining biodiversity also aids humanity by preserving landscapes of recreational or inspirational value. (Note: This Disciplinary Core Idea is also addressed by HS-LS2-7.) **Developing Possible Solutions** ● When evaluating solutions, it is important to take into account a range of constraints, including cost, safety, reliability, and aesthetics, and to consider social, cultural, and environmental impacts. ● Both physical models and computers can be used in various ways to aid in the engineering design process.	3 **Item Format** Selected Response Constructed Response Technology Enhanced

- Computers are useful for a variety of purposes, such as running simulations to test different ways of solving a problem or to see which one is most efficient or economical and in making a persuasive presentation to a client about how a given design will meet his or her needs.

CROSSCUTTING CONCEPTS

Cause and Effect

- Empirical evidence is required to differentiate between cause and correlation and to make claims about specific causes and effects.

Content Limits/Assessment Boundaries

- Tasks should provide students with all necessary background information for a given scenario. Students should not require students to develop their own scenarios.
- Tasks do not have address both the creation and revision of the given model.

Possible Evidence

- Students create or revise a model that
  - explains effects of human activity (e.g., overpopulation, overexploitation, adverse habitat alterations, pollution, invasive species, changes in climate) on a threatened or endangered species or to the genetic variation within a species and
  - provides quantitative information about the effect of the solutions on threatened or endangered species.
- Students describe or identify the components of the model including human activity (e.g., overpopulation, overexploitation, adverse habitat alterations, pollution, invasive species, changes in climate) and the factors that affect biodiversity.
- Students describe the variables that can be changed within the model to evaluate the proposed solutions, trade-offs, or other decisions.
- Students show an understanding of the reliance of ecosystem function and productivity on biodiversity, and that take into account the limitations (constraints) of cost, safety, and reliability as well as cultural, and environmental impacts.
- Students use or identify possible negative consequences of solutions that would outweigh their benefits.
- Students analyze the modeled results to determine whether the model provides sufficient information to evaluate the solution.

Sample Stems

• Students identify the model's limitations. • Students interpret the modeled results, and predict the effects of the specific design solutions on biodiversity based on the interpretation. • Students revise the model as needed to provide sufficient information to evaluate the solution.	
Stimulus Materials Graphic organizers, diagrams, graphs, data tables, drawings	