

DCIs

**LS4.A: Evidence of Common Ancestry and Diversity** □ The collection of fossils and their placement in chronological order (e.g., through the location of the sedimentary layers in which they are found or through radioactive dating) is known as the fossil record. It documents the existence, diversity, extinction, and change of many life forms throughout the history of life on Earth. (MS-LS4-1) □

**PS2.B: Types of Interactions** Gravitational forces are always attractive. There is a gravitational force between any two masses, but it is very small except when one or both of the objects have large mass—e.g., Earth and the sun. (MS-PS2-4)

**PS2.A: Forces and Motion** All positions of objects and the directions of forces and motions must be described in an arbitrarily chosen reference frame and arbitrarily chosen units of size. In order to share information with other people, these choices must also be shared. (MSPS2-2)

**PS2.A: Forces and Motion** The motion of an object is determined by the sum of the forces acting on it; if the total force on the object is not zero, its motion will change. The greater the mass of the object, the greater the force needed to achieve the same change in motion. For any given object, a larger force causes a larger change in motion. (MS-PS2-2) □

**PS2.A: Forces and Motion** □ For any pair of interacting objects, the force exerted by the first object on the second object is equal in strength to the force that the second object exerts on the first, but in the opposite direction (Newton's third law). (MS-PS2-1)

**ETS1.A: Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems** □ A solution needs to be tested, and then modified on the basis of the test results, in order to improve it. (MS-ETS1-4) □ There are systematic processes for evaluating solutions with respect to how well they meet the criteria and constraints of a problem. (MS-ETS1-2), (MS-ETS1-3) □ Sometimes parts of different solutions can be combined to create a solution that is better than any of its predecessors. (MS-ETS1-3) □ Models of all kinds are important for testing solutions. (MS-ETS1-4)

**ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions** □ Although one design may not perform the best across all tests, identifying the characteristics of the design that performed the best in each test can provide useful information for the redesign process—that is, some of those characteristics may be incorporated into the new design. (MS-ETS1-3) □ The iterative process of testing the most promising solutions and modifying what is proposed on the basis of the test results leads to greater refinement and ultimately to an optimal solution. (MSETS1-4)

**ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution** □ A solution needs to be tested, and then modified on the basis of the test results, in order to improve it. (MS-ETS1-4) □ There are systematic processes for evaluating solutions with respect to how well they meet the criteria and constraints of a problem. (MS-ETS1-2), (MS-ETS1-3) □ Sometimes parts of different solutions can be combined to create a solution that is better than any of its predecessors. (MS-ETS1-3) □ Models of all kinds are important for testing solutions. (MS-ETS1-4)

**PS3.A: Definitions of Energy** □ Motion energy is properly called kinetic energy; it is proportional to the mass of the moving object and grows with the square of its speed. (MS-PS3-1)

**PS3.C: Relationship Between Energy and Forces** □ When two objects interact, each one exerts a force on the other that can cause energy to be transferred to or from the object. (MS-PS3-2)

Additional Concepts

- fossil record
- Law of Superposition
- Sedimentary rock layers
- Relative dating

- What is a force?
- What is motion?
- What is gravity?
- speed
- velocity

- reference frames

- vectors
- change in motion
- sum of forces
- balanced forces

- Newton's laws of Motion

- friction

- engineering design process
- defining the problem
- criteria and constraints

- evaluating possible solutions
- choosing the best idea
- building models

- test and evaluate
- improve designs and fix model
- communicate results on best designs

- motion energy
- kinetic energy
- relationship between motion and kinetic energies

- transfer of energy
- conservation of energy

SEPs

**Analyzing and Interpreting Data** Analyzing data in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to extending quantitative analysis to investigations, distinguishing between correlation and causation, and basic statistical techniques of data and error analysis. □ Analyze and interpret data to determine similarities and differences in findings. (MS-LS4-1)

**Scientific Knowledge is Based on Empirical Evidence** □ Science knowledge is based upon logical and conceptual connections between evidence and explanations. (MS-PS2-4)

**Engaging in Argument from Evidence** Engaging in argument from evidence in 6–8 builds from K–5 experiences and progresses to constructing a convincing argument that supports or refutes claims for either explanations or solutions about the natural and designed world. □ Construct and present oral and written arguments supported by empirical evidence and scientific reasoning to support or refute an explanation or a model for a phenomenon or a solution to a problem. (MS-PS2-4)

**Scientific Knowledge is Based on Empirical Evidence** □ Science knowledge is based upon logical and conceptual connections between evidence and explanations. (MS-PS2-4)

**Asking Questions and Defining Problems**

Asking questions and defining problems in grades 6–8 builds on grades K–5 experiences and progresses to specifying relationships between variables, and clarifying arguments and models. □ Define a design problem that can be solved through the development of an object, tool, process or system and includes multiple criteria and constraints, including scientific knowledge that may limit possible solutions. (MS-ETS1-1)

**Developing and Using Models**

Modeling in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to developing, using, and revising models to describe, test, and predict more abstract phenomena and design systems. □ Analyze and interpret data to determine similarities and differences in findings. (MS-ETS1-3)

**Analyzing and Interpreting Data**

Extending quantitative analysis to investigations, distinguishing between correlation and causation, and basic statistical techniques of data and error analysis. □ Develop a model to generate data to test ideas about designed systems, including those representing inputs and outputs. (MS-ETS1-4)

**Developing and Using Models**

Modeling in 6–8 builds on K–5 and progresses to developing, using, and revising models to describe, test, and predict more abstract phenomena and design systems. □ Develop a model to describe unobservable mechanisms. (MS-PS3-2)

CCCs

**Patterns** □ Graphs, charts, and images can be used to identify patterns in data. (MS-LS4-1)

**Scientific Knowledge Assumes an Order and Consistency in Natural Systems** □ Science assumes that objects and events in natural systems occur in consistent patterns that are understandable through measurement and observation. (MS-LS4-1)

**Stability and Change** □ Explanations of stability and change in natural or designed systems can be constructed by examining the changes over time and forces at different scales. (MS-PS2-2)

**Systems and System Models** □ Models can be used to represent systems and their interactions—such as inputs, processes and outputs—and energy and matter flows within systems. (MS-PS2-1)

**Influence of Science, Engineering, and Technology on Society and the Natural World** □ All human activity draws on natural resources and has both short and long-term consequences, positive as well as negative, for the health of people and the natural environment. (MS-ETS1-1) □ The uses of technologies and any limitations on their use are driven by individual or societal needs, desires, and values; by the findings of scientific research; and by differences in such factors as climate, natural resources, and economic conditions. (MS-ETS1-1)

**Engaging in Argument from Evidence** Constructing a convincing argument that supports or refutes claims for either explanations or solutions about the natural and designed world. □ Evaluate competing design solutions based on jointly developed and agreed-upon design criteria. (MS-PS3-1)

**Scale, Proportion, and Quantity** Proportional relationships (e.g. speed as the ratio of distance traveled to time taken) among different types of quantities provide information about the magnitude of properties and processes. (MS-PS3-1)

**Systems and System Models** □ Models can be used to represent systems and their interactions – such as inputs, processes, and outputs – and energy and matter flows within systems. (MS-PS3-2)

PEs  
(boundaries of PE)

**Intro to Fossil Record QFT & Research Project**

**LS4-1** Analyze and interpret data for patterns in the fossil record that document the existence, diversity, extinction, and change of life forms throughout the history of life on Earth under the assumption that natural laws operate today as in the past. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on finding patterns of changes in the level of complexity of anatomical structures in organisms and the chronological order of fossil appearance in the rock layers.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include the names of individual species or geological eras in the fossil record.]

**Activity Brainstorm**

- Starting with a QFT on Asteroid Impacts
- Research Project on Mass Extinctions
- [http://voices.nationalgeographic.com/2010/03/04/asteroid\\_terminated\\_dinosaur\\_era\\_in\\_days/](http://voices.nationalgeographic.com/2010/03/04/asteroid_terminated_dinosaur_era_in_days/)

**Engineering Design Challenges**

- ETS1-1.** Define the criteria and constraints of a design problem with sufficient precision to ensure a successful solution, taking into account relevant scientific principles and potential impacts on people and the natural environment that may limit possible solutions.
- ETS1-2.** Evaluate competing design solutions using a systematic process to determine how well they meet the criteria and constraints of the problem.
- ETS1-3.** Analyze data from tests to determine similarities and differences among several design solutions to identify the best characteristics of each that can be combined into a new solution to better meet the criteria for success.
- ETS1-4.** Develop a model to generate data for iterative testing and modification of a proposed object, tool, or process such that an optimal design can be achieved.

**Balloon Powered Race Car Engineering Design Challenge (Part 1)**

**PS2-2** Plan an investigation to provide evidence that the change in an object's motion depends on the sum of the forces on the object and the mass of the object. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on balanced (Newton's First Law) and unbalanced forces in a system, qualitative comparisons of forces, mass and changes in motion (Newton's Second Law), frame of reference, and specification of units.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to forces and changes in motion in one-dimension in an inertial reference frame and to change in one variable at a time. Assessment does not include the use of trigonometry.]

**Activity Brainstorm:**

- Students design a balloon powered car to go the furthest and fastest
- Use car to explain Newton's 3 laws
- Use reference frames and vectors to provide evidence of Newton's 3 Laws
- Use car to explain concepts of friction and change in motion

**Balloon Car Bumper Engineering Design Challenge (Part 2)**

**PS2-1** Newton's Third Law to design a solution to a problem involving the motion of two colliding objects.\* [Clarification Statement: Examples of practical problems could include the impact of collisions between two cars, between a car and stationary objects, and between a meteor and a space vehicle.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to vertical or horizontal interactions in one dimension.]

**Activity Brainstorm**

- Use learning from Newton's 3rd law to design a bumper for the car to reduce consequences of impact when two cars collide and when car hits a wall
- Design a way to collect data on damage (Example: penny on car moves during collision)
- Develop a testing method
- Create a media product to communicate the results of the investigation

**Asteroid Collision Lab**

**PS2-4** Construct and present arguments using evidence to support the claim that gravitational interactions are attractive and depend on the masses of interacting objects. [Clarification Statement: Examples of evidence for arguments could include data generated from simulations or digital tools; and charts displaying mass, strength of interaction, distance from the Sun, and orbital periods of objects within the solar system.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include Newton's Law of Gravitation or Kepler's Laws.]

**PS3-1.** Construct and interpret graphical displays of data to describe the relationships of kinetic energy to the mass of an object and to the speed of an object. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on descriptive relationships between kinetic energy and mass separately from kinetic energy and speed. Examples could include riding a bicycle at different speeds, rolling different sizes of rocks downhill, and getting hit by a wiffle ball versus a tennis ball.]

**Activity Brainstorm**

- <http://spaceclass.org/labs/asteroids/resources/Asteroid%20Impact%20High%20School.pdf>
- Construct an explanation using evidence from lab and research about the relationship between the mass of interacting objects.