



FOCUS AREAS FOR THIRD GRADE:

- ▶ Understand connections among humans, earth systems, and the environment. For example, think about how people can reduce damage caused by weather.
- ▶ Understand the different life cycles of plants and animals. For example, compare the life cycles of a sunflower, a bird, and a frog.
- ▶ Understand life and environments that existed on Earth long ago. For example, use fossils to understand that some types of plants and animals no longer exist.
- ▶ Understand the concept of force and how forces sometimes balance each other out. For example, explore how magnets push or pull each other.



BY THE END OF THIRD GRADE, STUDENTS CAN:

- ▶ Use graphs and charts to talk about weather patterns around the world.
- ▶ Understand that plants and animals can grow and reproduce in different ways.
- ▶ Explain how specific characteristics help living things survive (like how thorns protect roses from being eaten by animals).
- ▶ Explore the difference between inherited traits (like eye color) and traits caused by something in the environment (like when a plant is small because it gets too little sunlight).
- ▶ Understand that when an environment changes, some plants and animals survive and reproduce, some move to other places, and some die.
- ▶ Explore how objects move and affect each other. Explain how they move differently over rough and smooth surfaces.
- ▶ Draw or build models to show possible solutions to a problem (like how to design safe playground equipment).



QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR CHILD:

- ▶ What will the weather be like this week? How do you know?
- ▶ How do engineers figure out how to solve problems?
- ▶ What happens to plants and animals when their environment changes?



TOPICS YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER:

- ▶ How science relates to everyday situations in your child's life
- ▶ Places in the community that can help your child learn science

