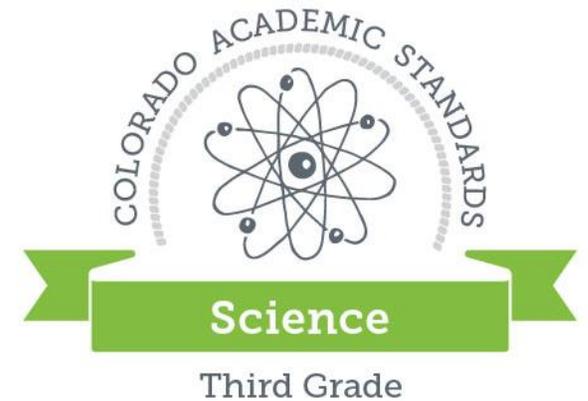


# A Guide to the Colorado Academic Standards



## Working Together

To support families and teachers in realizing the goals of the Colorado Academic Standards, this guide provides an overview of the learning expectations for Third Grade Science. This guide offers some learning experiences students may engage in during this school year, experiences that may also be supported at home.

## Why Standards?

Created by Coloradans for Colorado students, the Colorado Academic Standards provide a grade-by-grade road map to help ensure students are successful in college, careers, and life. The standards aim to improve what students learn and how they learn in ten content areas – emphasizing critical-thinking, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, and communication as important life skills in the 21st century.

## Science for Elementary Schools (k-5)

The science standards in the elementary grades lay the foundation for students to work as scientists by asking testable questions, collecting and analyzing different types of evidence, and by providing rationales for their interpretations. Mastery of these standards will result in students who have a deep understanding of science and how scientific knowledge can provide solutions to practical problems.

## Where can I learn more?

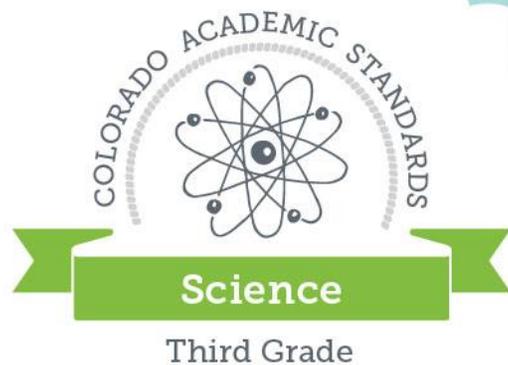
- Contact your school district regarding local decisions related to standards, curriculum, resources, and instruction.
- Colorado Academic Standards Booklets: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/GradeLevelBooks.asp>
- Joanna Bruno, Science Content Specialist at 303-919-3907, [Bruno\\_j@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Bruno_j@cde.state.co.us)



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

**Colorado**  
**PTA**  
everychild. onevoice.

At the end of  
Third Grade,  
students can...



## Science Learning Expectations for Third Grade

### Physical Science

Recognize that matter exists in different states such as solids, liquids, and gases and that matter can change from one form to another through heating and cooling; collect data to form and defend a conclusion; demonstrate the importance of keeping accurate scientific observations and notes.

### Life Science

Understand that events such as reproduction and life span (longevity) vary across organisms and species.

### Earth Science

Understand that Earth's materials can be broken down and/or combined into different materials such as rocks, minerals, soil, and sand; use models to demonstrate the rock cycle and other ways that the Earth's materials can be broken down or combined.

## Throughout the Third Grade, you may find students...

- Making and interpreting observations about matter as it freezes, melts, boils and condenses; using evidence to develop a scientific explanation around heating and cooling of matter.
- Using evidence to develop a scientific explanation regarding how organisms develop and change over time; analyzing and interpreting data to generate evidence that organisms develop differently over time.
- Investigating and identifying ways that Earth's materials can be broken down and/or combined; using evidence to develop a scientific explanation about one or more processes that break down and/or combine Earth materials.
- Utilizing a variety of information and sources to collect and analyze data and develop scientific explanations.