

**River Unit**

**Driving Questions:**

* How do living and non-living things change during the year?
* How are animal and plant life cycles similar and different?
* How are living and non-living things different and how can they be grouped and organized?
* How does the habitat of a living thing provide its basic needs?
* What is the relationship between rocks, water, and soil?

**Massachusetts Science and Technology Learning Standards**

**Science Learning Standards**

**Earth and Space Science**

Earth’s Materials

1. Recognize that water, rocks, soil, and living organisms are found on the earth’s surface.

Weather

1. Describe the weather changes from day to day and over the seasons.

Periodic Phenomena

1. Identify some events around us that have repeating patterns, including the seasons of the year, day and night.

**Life Science**

Characteristics of Living Things

1. Recognize that animals (including humans) and plants are living things that grow, reproduce, and need food, air, and water.
2. Differentiate between living and non-living things. Group both living and non-living things according to the characteristics they share.
3. Recognize that plants and animals have life cycles, and that life cycles vary for different living things.

Living Things and Their Environment

1. Recognize that people and other animals interact with the environment through their senses of sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste.
2. Recognize changes in appearance that animals and plants go through as the seasons change.
3. Identify the ways in which an organism’s habitat provides for its basic needs (plants require air, water, nutrients, and light; animals require food, water, air, and shelter).

**Skills of Inquiry Learning Standards**

* Ask questions about objects, organisms, and events in the environment.
* Tell about *why* and *what would happen if?*
* Make predictions based on observed patterns.
* Name and use simple equipment and tools (e.g., rulers, meter sticks, thermometers, hand lenses, and balances) to gather data and extend the senses.
* Record observations and data with pictures, numbers, or written statements.
* Discuss observations with others.

**Technology/Engineering Learning Standards**

**Materials and Tools**

* 1. Identify and describe characteristics of natural materials (e.g., wood, cotton, fur, wool) and human-made materials (e.g., plastic, Styrofoam).
  2. Identify and explain some possible uses for natural materials (e.g., wood, cotton, fur, wool) and human-made materials (e.g., plastic, Styrofoam).