Grade 4 - From molecules to organisms; Structures and processes
(8 weeks)

Essential Questions :

- What are examples of physical adaptations that plants or animals have that help them to survive and reproduce?
- What are examples of behavioral adaptations that plants or animals have that help them to survive and reproduce?
- How do plants reproduce and grow?

Big Ideas:

- Organisms have structures and functions that help them survive, grow, reproduce and behave in a certain way. (4LS1-1)
- Animals rely on instinct and learned behavior to meet their needs. (4LS1-2)

Vocabulary: Organisms, species, food web, adaptation, instinct, characteristic

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

4-LS1-1. **Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of structures could include thorns, stems, roots, colored petals, heart, stomach, lung, brain, and skin.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to macroscopic structures within plant and animal systems.]

4-LS1-2. **Use a model to describe that animals receive different types of information through their senses, process the information in their brain, and respond to the information in different ways.** [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on systems of information transfer.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include the mechanisms by which the brain stores and recalls information or the mechanisms of how sensory receptors function.]

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

Science and Engineering Practices	Disciplinary Core Ideas	Crosscutting Concepts
Developing and Using Models Modeling in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to building and revising simple models and using models to represent events and design solutions. • Use a model to test interactions concerning the functioning of a natural system. (4-LS1-2) **Engaging in Argument from Evidence** Engaging in argument from evidence in 3–5 builds on K–2	**LS1.A: Structure and Function** • Plants and animals have both internal and external structures that serve various functions in growth, survival, behavior, and reproduction. (4-LS1-1) **LS1.D: Information Processing** • Different sense receptors are specialized for particular	**Systems and System Models** • A system can be described in terms of its components and their interactions. (4-LS1-1),(4-LS1-2)

experiences and progresses to critiquing the scientific explanations or solutions proposed by peers by citing relevant evidence about the natural and designed world(s). • Construct an argument with evidence, data, and/or a model. (4-LS1-1)	kinds of information, which may be then processed by the animal's brain. Animals are able to use their perceptions and memories to guide their actions. (4-LS1-2)	

Connections to other DCIs in fourth grade:

N/A

Articulation of DCIs across grade-levels:

1.LS1.A (4-LS1-1); **1.LS1.D** (4-LS1-1); **3.LS3.B** (4-LS1-1); **MS.LS1.A** (4-LS1-1),(4-LS1-2); **MS.LS1.D** (4-LS1-2)

Common Core State Standards Connections:

ELA/Literacy -

W.4.1 Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information. (4-LS1-1)

SL.4.5 Add audio recordings and visual displays to presentations when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or themes. *(4-LS1-2)*

Mathematics -

4.G.A.3 Recognize a line of symmetry for a two-dimensional figure as a line across the figure such that the figure can be folded across the line into matching parts. Identify line-symmetric figures and draw lines of symmetry. *(4-LS1-1)*