

# \*Unit 3 Intro to Marine Life

Content Area: **Science**  
Course(s): **Marine Environmental Science**  
Time Period: **September**  
Length: **22 blocks**  
Status: **Published**

## **Performance Expectations (Transfer Skills)**

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- LS2-1 Use mathematical and/or computational representations to support explanations of factors that affect ca
- LS2-2 Plan and conduct an investigation of the properties of water and its effects on Earth materials and surfac
- LS2-4 Use mathematical representations to support claims for the cycling of matter and flow of energy among
- LS4-2 Construct an explanation based on evidence that the process of evolution primarily results from four fac heritable genetic variation of individuals in a species due to mutation and sexual reproduction, (3) comp organisms that are better able to survive and reproduce in the environment.

## **Enduring Understandings**

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- Matter cycles and energy flows in abiotic marine systems
- Abiotic processes often follow natural patterns that can be used to make predictions.
- Human impact can sometimes affect and alter natural patterns.

## **Essential Questions**

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- To what extent is weather impacted by humans?
- If energy is neither created nor destroyed, where does it go?

## **Disciplinary Core Ideas (Content)**

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LS2.A: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

- Ecosystems have carrying capacities, which are limits to the numbers of organisms and populations they can support. These limits result from such factors as the availability of living and nonliving resources and from such challenges such as predation, competition, and disease. Organisms would

have the capacity to produce populations of great size were it not for the fact that environments and resources are finite. This fundamental tension affects the abundance (number of individuals) of species in any given ecosystem. (HS-LS2-1),(HS-LS2-2)

#### LS2.B: Cycles of Matter and Energy Transfer in Ecosystems

- Plants or algae form the lowest level of the food web. At each link upward in a food web, only a small fraction of the matter consumed at the lower level is transferred upward, to produce growth and release energy in cellular respiration at the higher level. Given this inefficiency, there are generally fewer organisms at higher levels of a food web. Some matter reacts to release energy for life functions, some matter is stored in newly made structures, and much is discarded. The chemical elements that make up the molecules of organisms pass through food webs and into and out of the atmosphere and soil, and they are combined and recombined in different ways. At each link in an ecosystem, matter and energy are conserved. (HS-LS2-4)

#### LS2.C: Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience

- A complex set of interactions within an ecosystem can keep its numbers and types of organisms relatively constant over long periods of time under stable conditions. If a modest biological or physical disturbance to an ecosystem occurs, it may return to its more or less original status (i.e., the ecosystem is resilient), as opposed to becoming a very different ecosystem. Extreme fluctuations in conditions or the size of any population, however, can challenge the functioning of ecosystems in terms of resources and habitat availability. (HS-LS2-2)

#### LS4.B: Natural Selection

- Natural selection occurs only if there is both (1) variation in the genetic information between organisms in a population and (2) variation in the expression of that genetic information—that is, trait variation—that leads to differences in performance among individuals. (HS-LS-4-2)

#### LS4.C: Adaptation

- Evolution is a consequence of the interaction of four factors: (1) the potential for a species to increase in number, (2) the genetic variation of individuals in a species due to mutation and sexual reproduction, (3) competition for an environment's limited supply of the resources that individuals need in order to survive and reproduce, and (4) the ensuing proliferation of those organisms that are better able to survive and reproduce in that environment. (HS-LS-4-2)

### **Science & Engineering Practices (Skills)**

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The eight science and engineering practices should be integrated in to learning opportunities where appropriate.

1. Asking questions (for science) and defining problems (for engineering)
2. Developing and using models
3. Planning and carrying out investigations
4. Analyzing and interpreting data

5. Using mathematics and computational thinking
6. Constructing explanations (for science) and designing solutions (for engineering)
7. Engaging in argument from evidence
8. Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information

## Resources

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Pearson Text

Lesson 1. Diving into Ocean Ecosystems (LS2-4, LS2-1, LS2-2)

Lesson 5. Migrations in the Sea (LS4-2)

## Standards

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SCI.9-12.5.3	Energy cannot be created or destroyed—only moves between one place and another place, between objects and/or fields, or between systems.
SCI.9-12.CCC.7.1	students understand much of science deals with constructing explanations of how things change and how they remain stable. They quantify and model changes in systems over very short or very long periods of time. They see some changes are irreversible, and negative feedback can stabilize a system, while positive feedback can destabilize it. They recognize systems can be designed for greater or lesser stability.
SCI.9-12.SEP.5.b	Use mathematical, computational, and/or algorithmic representations of phenomena or design solutions to describe and/or support claims and/or explanations.
SCI.9-12.SEP.7.d	Construct, use, and/or present an oral and written argument or counter-arguments based on data and evidence.
SCI.HS-ESS2-7	Construct an argument based on evidence about the simultaneous coevolution of Earth's systems and life on Earth.
SCI.HS-LS2-4	Use a mathematical representation to support claims for the cycling of matter and flow of energy among organisms in an ecosystem.