Unit 5: Organisms and Their Environments (Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems)

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Department of Curriculum and Instruction



Belleville Public Schools

Curriculum Guide

Science: Grade 3

Unit 5: Organisms and Their Environments

Belleville Board of Education

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Unit Overview

Unit five focuses on forces. Students will explore inheritance and variation of traits in organisms. Students will discover how difference organisms adapt to their environment. Students will learn how to identify the cause and effect of how organisms change when environments change.

(Reference HMH Science Dimensions, Unit 5)

Enduring Understanding

- The environment is made up of all living and non-living things that affect an organisms.
- Factors in the environment, like temperature and nutrients, can affect features and traits of plants/animals.
- Adaptations help an organism to survive in its environment.
- Physical characteristics and useful behaviors are adaptations.
- In order to survive, animals need food, shelter, water, and a place to raise their young.
- Organisms have traits that allow them to survive in their habitat.
- Similar organisms that live in different environments will have different adaptations to better enable them to survive their specific environments.
- Animals and plants have many characteristics that help them survive and reproduce.
- Living with groups of the same kind helps some animals to survive.
- When an environment changes, it affects the plants and animals that live there.
- Humans can cause changes in the environment.

Essential Questions

- How does the environment affect traits?
- What are adaptations?
- How can organisms succeed in their environments?
- What happens when environments change?
- How do environmental changes affect organisms in an ecosystem?

Exit Skills

By the end of Unit 5, students will be able to:

- Explain how the environment may affect organisms.
- Explain how adaptations help organisms survive.
- Use evidence to support the explanation that traits can be influenced by the environment.
- Explain how an organism's characteristics and how being a member of a group may help an organisms survive and reproduce.
- Construct an argument that some animals form groups that help members survive.
- Use evidence to construct an explanation for how the variation of characteristics among individuals of the same species may provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing.
- Explain what happens to plants and animals when their sources of food, water, and shelter change.
- Construct explanations about how environmental changes affect organisms in an ecosystem.

New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS-S) & NGSS

SEP - Constructing... Solutions

SEP - Analyzing and Interpreting Data

SEP - Engaging in Argument from Evidence

DCI - Ecosystem Dynamics... Resilience

DCI - Social Interactions... Behavior

DCI - Variation of Traits

DCI - Adaptation

CCC - Cause and Effect

CCC - Systems and System Models

NextGen Science Standards

3-LS1-1	Develop models to describe that organisms have unique and diverse life cycles but all have in common birth, growth, reproduction, and death.
3-LS1-1.LS1.B.1	Reproduction is essential to the continued existence of every kind of organism. Plants and animals have unique and diverse life cycles.
3-LS2-1	Construct an argument that some animals form groups that help members survive.
3-LS2-1.2.1	Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified and used to explain change.
3-LS2-1.LS2.D.1	Being part of a group helps animals obtain food, defend themselves, and cope with changes. Groups may serve different functions and vary dramatically in size.
3-LS3-2	Use evidence to support the explanation that traits can be influenced by the environment.
3-LS4-4	Make a claim about the merit of a solution to a problem caused when the environment changes and the types of plants and animals that live there may change.
3-LS4-2	Use evidence to construct an explanation for how the variations in characteristics among individuals of the same species may provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing.
3-LS4-3	Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.

Interdisciplinary Connections

Connections to Math:

- **MP.2** Reason abstractly and quantitatively
- **MP.3** Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.

LA.RI.3.1	Ask and answer questions, and make relevant connections to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
LA.RI.3.3	Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect.
LA.RI.3.7	Use information gained from text features (e.g., illustrations, maps, photographs) and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur).
LA.RI.3.10	By the end of the year, read and comprehend literary nonfiction at grade level text-complexity or above, with scaffolding as needed.
LA.W.3.10	Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, metacognition/self-correction and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.
LA.SL.3.1	Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher led) with diverse partners on grade 3 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.
LA.SL.3.1.A	Explicitly draw on previously read text or material and other information known about the

	topic to explore ideas under discussion.
LA.SL.3.1.B	Follow agreed-upon norms for discussions (e.g., gaining the floor in respectful ways, listening to others with care, speaking one at a time about the topics and texts under discussion).
LA.SL.3.1.C	Ask questions to check understanding of information presented, stay on topic, and link their comments to the remarks of others.
LA.SL.3.1.D	Explain their own ideas and understanding in light of the discussion.
LA.SL.3.2	Determine the main ideas and supporting details of a text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.
LA.SL.3.3	Ask and answer questions about information from a speaker, offering appropriate elaboration and detail.
TECH.8.1.2	Educational Technology: All students will use digital tools to access, manage, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to solve problems individually and collaborate and to create and communicate knowledge.
TECH.8.2.2	Technology Education, Engineering, Design, and Computational Thinking - Programming: All students will develop an understanding of the nature and impact of technology, engineering, technological design, computational thinking and the designed world as they relate to the individual, global society, and the environment.

Learning Objectives

In Unit 5, students will demonstrate the ability to:

Lesson 1: How Does the Environment Affect Traits?

- Determine how factors in the environment can affect plants and animals.
- Identify cause-and-effect relationships in the environment that impact plants and animals.
- Research how people are affected by their environment.

Lesson 2: What Are Adaptations?

- Explain how camouflaging is an adaptation.
- Distinguish between behavioral and physical adaptations.
- Determine the importance of organisms finding environments that suit their needs.

Lesson 3: How Can Organisms Succeed in Their Environment?

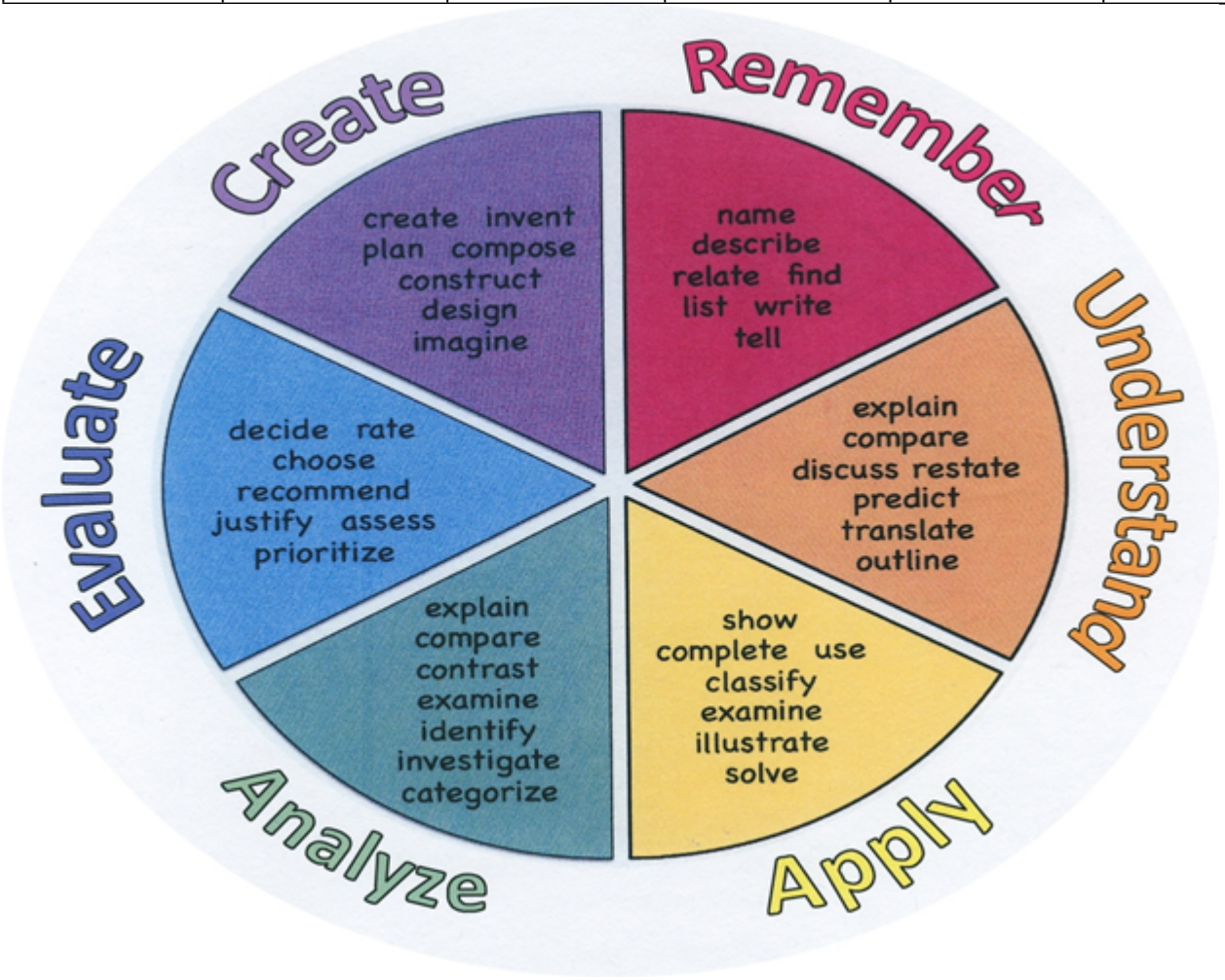
- Determine how animals' characteristics help them survive.
- Determine the effect of an animals action.
- Analyze the benefits of animal groups helping their members.

Lesson 4: What Happens When Environments Change?

- Make connection between environmental changes and plant and animal habitats.
- Differentiate between natural or human changes in the environment.
- Identify three types of environmental changes.

Remember	Understand	Apply	Analyze	Evaluate	Create
Choose	Classify	Choose	Categorize	Appraise	Combine
Describe	Defend	Dramatize	Classify	Judge	Compose
Define	Demonstrate	Explain	Compare	Criticize	Construct

Label	Distinguish	Generalize	Differentiate	Defend	Design
List	Explain	Judge	Distinguish	Compare	Develop
Locate	Express	Organize	Identify	Assess	Formulate
Match	Extend	Paint	Infer	Conclude	Hypothesize
Memorize	Give Examples	Prepare	Point out	Contrast	Invent
Name	Illustrate	Produce	Select	Critique	Make
Omit	Indicate	Select	Subdivide	Determine	Originate
Recite	Interrelate	Show	Survey	Grade	Organize
Select	Interpret	Sketch	Arrange	Justify	Plan
State	Infer	Solve	Breakdown	Measure	Produce
Count	Match	Use	Combine	Rank	Role Play
Draw	Paraphrase	Add	Detect	Rate	Drive
Outline	Represent	Calculate	Diagram	Support	Devise
Point	Restate	Change	Discriminate	Test	Generate
Quote	Rewrite	Classify	Illustrate		Integrate
Recall	Select	Complete	Outline		Prescribe
Recognize	Show	Compute	Point out		Propose
Repeat	Summarize	Discover	Separate		Reconstruct
Reproduce	Tell	Divide			Revise
	Translate	Examine			Rewrite
	Associate	Graph			Transform
	Compute	Interpolate			
	Convert	Manipulate			
	Discuss	Modify			
	Estimate	Operate			
	Extrapolate	Subtract			
	Generalize				
	Predict				



Suggested Activities & Best Practices

HMH Science Dimensions, Unit 5 - Lesson 1:

- **Engage:** "Can You Solve It?" lesson
- **Explore/Explain:** "Plants and the Environment", "Animals and the Environment" lessons and hands-on activity (Exploration 1 & 2)
- **Elaborate:** Take it Further - Smart Bugs extension activity
- **Evaluate:** "Lesson Check" and "Lesson Roundup" assessments (formative/summative)

HMH Science Dimensions, Unit 5- Lesson 2:

- **Engage:** "Can You Solve It?" lesson
- **Explore/Explain:** Organisms Adapt", "Adaptation and Environment", "Surviving and Thriving lessons and hands-on activity (Exploration 1, 2, 3)
- **Elaborate:** Take It Further - Robotic Adaptations - extension activity
- **Evaluate:** "Lesson Check" and "Lesson Roundup" assessments (formative/summative)

HMH Science Dimensions, Unit 5 - Lesson 3:

- **Engage:** "Can You Solve It?" lesson and hands-on activity
- **Explore/Explain:** "Differences that Win", "Better Together" lessons and hands-on activity (Exploration 1, 2)
- **Elaborate:** "Discover More" extension activity
- **Evaluate:** "Lesson Check" and "Lesson Roundup" assessments (formative/summative)

HMH Science Dimensions, Unit 5 - Lesson 4:

- **Engage:** "Can You Solve It?" lesson and hands-on activity
- **Explore/Explain:** "Everything Changes", "Staying Alive", "Moving on Upstream" lessons and hands-on activity (Exploration 1, 2,3)
- **Elaborate:** Take It Further extension activity
- **Evaluate:** "Lesson Check" and "Lesson Roundup" assessments (formative/summative)

HMH Science Dimensions, Unit 5 - Performance Task (Change It Up)

HMH Science Dimensions, Unit 5 - Unit Project (Lucky Layers):

- Research and Plan
- Analyze Results
- Restate Question
- Claims, Evidence, and Reasoning

Assessment Evidence - Checking for Understanding (CFU)

- Admit Tickets
- Anticipation Guide
- Compare & Contrast
- Create a Multimedia Poster
- DBQ's
- Define
- Describe
- Evaluate
- Evaluation rubrics
- Exit Tickets
- Explaining
- Fist- to-Five or Thumb-Ometer
- HMH End-of-Year Test (Benchmark)
- HMH Mid-Year Test (Benchmark)
- HMH Performance-based Assessment (Alternative)
- Illustration
- Journals
- KWL Chart
- Learning Center Activities
- Multimedia Reports
- Newspaper Headline
- Outline
- Question Stems
- Quickwrite
- Quizzes (Formative)
- Red Light, Green Light
- Self- assessments
- Socratic Seminar
- Study Guide
- Surveys
- Teacher Observation Checklist
- Think, Pair, Share
- Think, Write, Pair, Share
- Top 10 List
- Unit review/Test prep
- Unit tests (Summative)

- Web-Based Assessments
- Written Reports

Primary Resources & Materials

HMH Science Dimensions: Teacher Edition, Student workbooks, online resources

HMH Equipment & Safety Kits

HMH Science Dimensions S&E Leveled Readers

- On Level: How Are Living Things Connected to Their Ecosystem?
- Extra Support: How Are Living Things Connected to Their Ecosystem?
- Enrichment: Rainforest Adventure

Ancillary Resources

- National Geographic Kids (Habitats)
- Nonfiction books (adaptations)
- Discovery (Life Episodes: Plants)
- https://ngss-assessment.portal.concord.org/

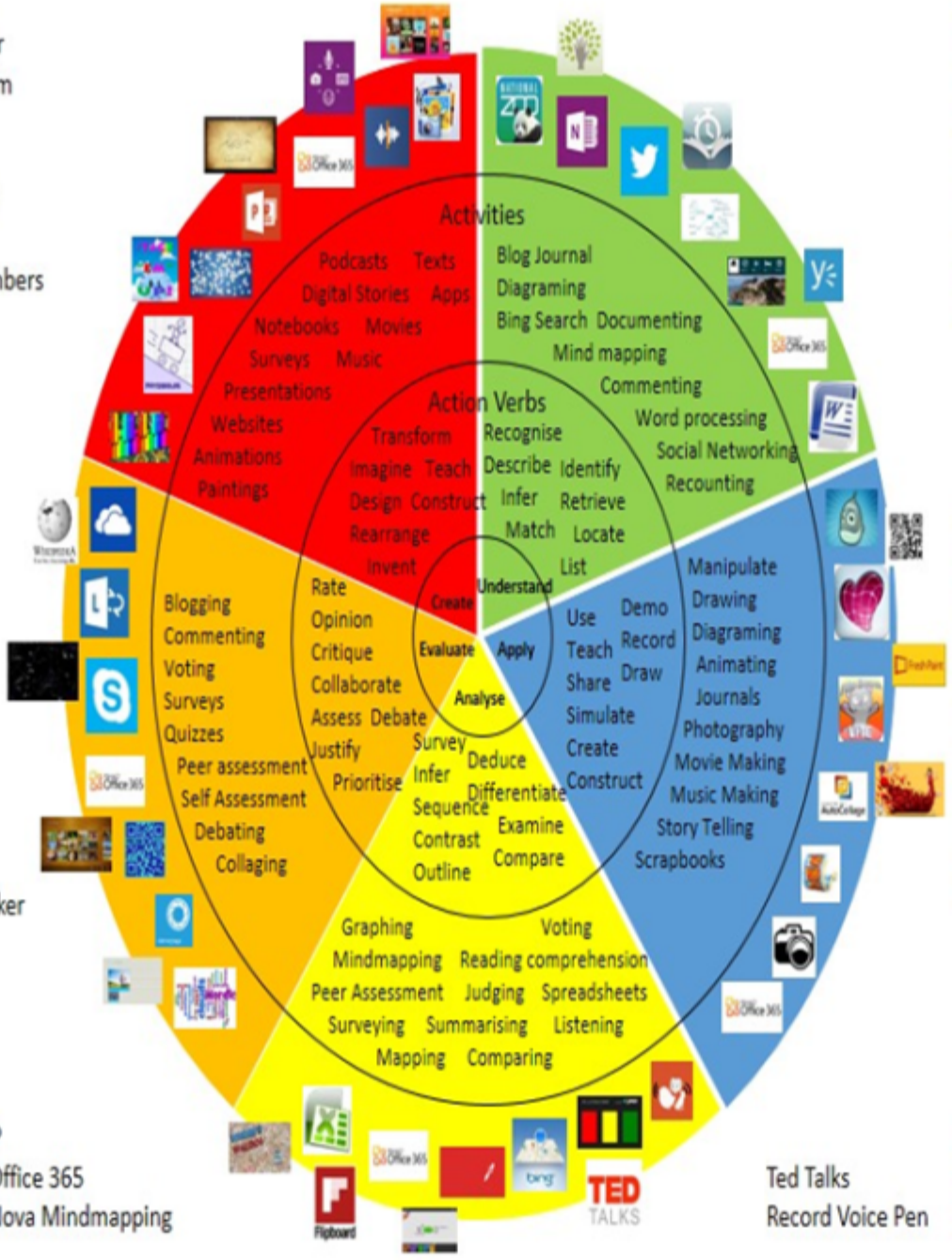
Technology Infusion

- HMH Science Dimensions Digital Components
- StudyJams! (Animal Adaptations)
- YouTube video (Environmental influences on animals)

Win 8.1 Apps/Tools Pedagogy Wheel

Podcasts
Photostory 3
Kid Story Builder
Music Maker Jam
Paint A Story
Office 365
MS PowerPoint
Stack 'Em Up
NqSquared Numbers
Physamajig
Xylophone 8

Wikipedia
Skydrive
Lync
SkyMap
Skype
Office 365
Puzzle Touch
Easy QR
Memorylage
Life Moments
Word Cloud Maker



Where's Waldo?
MS Excel Office 365
Flipboard Nova Mindmapping

Ted Talks
Record Voice Pen

Originally taken from http://www.coetail.com/vzimmer/files/2013/02/iPadagogy-Wheel.001.jpg
And adapted for Windows 8.1 devices by Charlotte Beckhurst @CharBeckhurst

Alignment to 21st Century Skills & Technology

21st Century Skills & Technology:

- English Language Arts
- Technology
- Mathematics

CRP.K-12.CRP1.1	Career-ready individuals understand the obligations and responsibilities of being a member of a community, and they demonstrate this understanding every day through their interactions with others. They are conscientious of the impacts of their decisions on others and the environment around them. They think about the near-term and long-term consequences of their actions and seek to act in ways that contribute to the betterment of their teams, families, community and workplace. They are reliable and consistent in going beyond the minimum expectation and in participating in activities that serve the greater good.
CRP.K-12.CRP4.1	Career-ready individuals communicate thoughts, ideas, and action plans with clarity, whether using written, verbal, and/or visual methods. They communicate in the workplace with clarity and purpose to make maximum use of their own and others' time. They are excellent writers; they master conventions, word choice, and organization, and use effective tone and presentation skills to articulate ideas. They are skilled at interacting with others; they are active listeners and speak clearly and with purpose. Career-ready individuals think about the audience for their communication and prepare accordingly to ensure the desired outcome.
CRP.K-12.CRP5.1	Career-ready individuals understand the interrelated nature of their actions and regularly make decisions that positively impact and/or mitigate negative impact on other people, organization, and the environment. They are aware of and utilize new technologies, understandings, procedures, materials, and regulations affecting the nature of their work as it relates to the impact on the social condition, the environment and the profitability of the organization.
CRP.K-12.CRP6.1	Career-ready individuals regularly think of ideas that solve problems in new and different ways, and they contribute those ideas in a useful and productive manner to improve their organization. They can consider unconventional ideas and suggestions as solutions to issues, tasks or problems, and they discern which ideas and suggestions will add greatest value. They seek new methods, practices, and ideas from a variety of sources and seek to apply those ideas to their own workplace. They take action on their ideas and understand how to bring innovation to an organization.

21st Century Skills/Interdisciplinary Themes

- Communication and Collaboration
- Creativity and Innovation
- Critical thinking and Problem Solving

- Information Literacy

21st Century Skills

- Environmental Literacy
- Global Awareness

Differentiation

The following differentiation strategies will be utilized:

- As needed, provide more instruction that is on level or below grade level for the students who are struggling.
- Monitor progress, reteach as needed, and extend student thinking.
- Utilize multiple intelligences teaching strategies.

Differentiations:

- Small group instruction
- Small group assignments
- Extra time to complete assignments
- Pairing oral instruction with visuals
- Repeat directions
- Use manipulatives
- Center-based instruction
- Token economy
- Study guides
- Teacher reads assessments allowed
- Scheduled breaks
- Rephrase written directions
- Multisensory approaches
- Additional time
- Preview vocabulary
- Preview content & concepts
- Story guides
- Behavior management plan
- Highlight text
- Student(s) work with assigned partner
- Visual presentation
- Assistive technology
- Auditory presentations
- Large print edition
- Dictation to scribe
- Small group setting

Hi-Prep Differentiations:

- Alternative formative and summative assessments
- Choice boards
- Games and tournaments
- Group investigations
- Guided Reading
- Independent research and projects
- Interest groups
- Learning contracts
- Leveled rubrics
- Literature circles
- Multiple intelligence options
- Multiple texts
- Personal agendas
- Project-based learning
- Problem-based learning
- Stations/centers
- Think-Tac-Toes
- Tiered activities/assignments
- Tiered products
- Varying organizers for instructions

Lo-Prep Differentiations

- Choice of books or activities
- Cubing activities
- Exploration by interest
- Flexible grouping
- Goal setting with students
- Jigsaw
- Mini workshops to re-teach or extend skills
- Open-ended activities
- Think-Pair-Share
- Reading buddies
- Varied journal prompts
- Varied supplemental materials

Special Education Learning (IEP's & 504's)

The following strategies will be employed for students with IEP's and 504's:

- Provide modifications as dictated in the student's IEP/504 plan.
- Check work frequently for understanding.

- Extended time on tests/quizzes

- printed copy of board work/notes provided
- additional time for skill mastery
- assistive technology
- behavior management plan
- Center-Based Instruction
- check work frequently for understanding
- computer or electronic device utilizes
- extended time on tests/ quizzes
- have student repeat directions to check for understanding
- highlighted text visual presentation
- modified assignment format
- modified test content
- modified test format
- modified test length
- multi-sensory presentation
- multiple test sessions
- preferential seating
- preview of content, concepts, and vocabulary
- Provide modifications as dictated in the student's IEP/504 plan
- reduced/shortened reading assignments
- Reduced/shortened written assignments
- secure attention before giving instruction/directions
- shortened assignments
- student working with an assigned partner
- teacher initiated weekly assignment sheet
- Use open book, study guides, test prototypes

English Language Learning (ELL)

The following strategies will be employed for English Language Learners:

- Decreasing the amount of work presented or required.
- Using videos, illustrations, pictures, and drawings to explain or clarify.
- Allowing products (projects, timelines, demonstrations, models, drawings, dioramas, poster boards, charts, graphs, slide shows, videos, etc.) to demonstrate student's learning.

- teaching key aspects of a topic. Eliminate nonessential information
- using videos, illustrations, pictures, and drawings to explain or clarif
- allowing products (projects, timelines, demonstrations, models, drawings, dioramas, poster boards,

charts, graphs, slide shows, videos, etc.) to demonstrate student's learning;

- allowing students to correct errors (looking for understanding)
- allowing the use of note cards or open-book during testing
- decreasing the amount of workpresented or required
- having peers take notes or providing a copy of the teacher's notes
- modifying tests to reflect selected objectives
- providing study guides
- reducing or omitting lengthy outside reading assignments
- reducing the number of answer choices on a multiple choice test
- tutoring by peers
- using computer word processing spell check and grammar check features
- using true/false, matching, or fill in the blank tests in lieu of essay tests

At Risk

The following strategies will be employed for At Risk Learners:

- Decreasing the amount of work presented or required.
- Teaching key aspects of a topic. Eliminate nonessential information.
- Tutoring by peers.

- allowing students to correct errors (looking for understanding)
- teaching key aspects of a topic. Eliminate nonessential information
- allowing products (projects, timelines, demonstrations, models, drawings, dioramas, poster boards, charts, graphs, slide shows, videos, etc.) to demonstrate student's learning
- allowing students to select from given choices
- allowing the use of note cards or open-book during testing
- collaborating (general education teacher and specialist) to modify vocabulary, omit or modify items to reflect objectives for the student, eliminate sections of the test, and determine how the grade will be determined prior to giving the test.
- decreasing the amount of workpresented or required
- having peers take notes or providing a copy of the teacher's notes
- marking students' correct and acceptable work, not the mistakes
- modifying tests to reflect selected objectives
- providing study guides
- reducing or omitting lengthy outside reading assignments
- reducing the number of answer choices on a multiple choice test
- tutoring by peers
- using authentic assessments with real-life problem-solving
- using true/false, matching, or fill in the blank tests in lieu of essay tests
- using videos, illustrations, pictures, and drawings to explain or clarify

Talented and Gifted Learning (T&G)

The following Talented and Gifted adaptations will be employed:

- Higher order, critical & creative thinking skills, and discovery.
- Flexible skill grouping within a class or across grade level for rigor.
- Teacher-selected instructional strategies that are focused to provide challenge, engagement, and growth opportunities.

- Above grade level placement option for qualified students
- Advanced problem-solving
- Allow students to work at a faster pace
- Cluster grouping
- Complete activities aligned with above grade level text using Benchmark results
- Create a blog or social media page about their unit
- Create a plan to solve an issue presented in the class or in a text
- Debate issues with research to support arguments
- Flexible skill grouping within a class or across grade level for rigor
- Higher order, critical & creative thinking skills, and discovery
- Multi-disciplinary unit and/or project
- Teacher-selected instructional strategies that are focused to provide challenge, engagement, and growth opportunities
- Utilize exploratory connections to higher-grade concepts
- Utilize project-based learning for greater depth of knowledge

Sample Lesson

Unit Name: Chapter 1-

NJSLS: See Link Below

Interdisciplinary Connection: See Link Below

Statement of Objective:

Anticipatory Set/Do Now:

Learning Activity:
Student Assessment/CFU's:

Materials:

21st Century Themes and Skills:

Differentiation/Modifications:

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Integration of Technology: