

Unit 01: Observation Skills

Content Area: **Template**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Full Year**
Length: **FY**
Status: **Published**

Standards Alignment

New Jersey Student Learning Standards

Crosscutting Statements

6. Structure and Function – The way an object is shaped or structured determines many of its properties and functions.

Complex and microscopic structures and systems can be visualized, modeled, and used to describe how their function depends on the shapes, composition, and relationships among its parts; therefore, complex natural and designed structures/systems can be analyzed to determine how they function.

Connections to Engineering, Technology and Applications of Science Interdependence of Science, Engineering, and Technology

Science and technology drive each other forward.

Influence of Engineering, Technology, and Science and the Natural World

The uses of technologies and any limitations on their use are driven by individual or societal needs, desires, and values; by the findings of scientific research; and by differences in such factors as climate, natural resources, and economic conditions.

Technology use varies over time and from region to region.

Connections to the Nature of Science: Most Closely Associated with Crosscutting Concepts Science is a Way of Knowing

Science is both a body of knowledge and the processes and practices used to add to that body of knowledge.

Science knowledge is cumulative and many people, from many generations and nations, have contributed to science knowledge.

Science is a way of knowing used by many people, not just scientists.

Scientific Knowledge Assumes an Order and Consistency in Natural Systems

Science assumes that objects and events in natural systems occur in consistent patterns that are understandable through measurement and observation.

Science carefully considers and evaluates anomalies in data and evidence.

Science is a Human Endeavor

Scientists and engineers rely on human qualities such as persistence, precision, reasoning, logic, imagination and creativity.

Advances in technology influence the progress of science and science has influenced advances in technology.

Science Addresses Questions About the Natural and Material World.

Scientific knowledge is constrained by human capacity, technology, and materials.

Science limits its explanations to systems that lend themselves to observation and empirical evidence.

Science knowledge can describe consequences of actions but is not responsible for society's decisions.

Capacities of the Literate Individual Students Who are College and Career Ready in Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening, & Language

They demonstrate independence.

They build strong content knowledge.

They value evidence.

They use technology and digital media strategically and capably.

LA.RH.6-8	Reading History and Social Studies
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R1	Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences and relevant connections from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R3	Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text. Craft and Structure
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R4	Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone. Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R7	Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.
LA.RH.6-8.7	Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R8	Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.
LA.RH.6-8.8	Distinguish among fact, opinion, and reasoned judgment in a text.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R9	Analyze and reflect on how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.
LA.RST.6-8	Reading Science and Technical Subjects
LA.RST.6-8.1	Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W	Writing
LA.RST.6-8.3	Follow precisely a multistep procedure when carrying out experiments, taking measurements, or performing technical tasks.
LA.RST.6-8.4	Determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and other domain-specific words and

	phrases as they are used in a specific scientific or technical context relevant to grades 6-8 texts and topics.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W2	Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
LA.RST.6-8.8	Distinguish among facts, reasoned judgment based on research findings, and speculation in a text.
LA.RST.6-8.9	Compare and contrast the information gained from experiments, simulations, video, or multimedia sources with that gained from reading a text on the same topic.
LA.WHST.6-8.2.D	Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.

Integration of Career Readiness, Life Literacies and Key Skills

CRP.K-12.CRP1	Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee.
CRP.K-12.CRP2	Apply appropriate academic and technical skills.
CRP.K-12.CRP3	Attend to personal health and financial well-being.
CRP.K-12.CRP4	Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.
CRP.K-12.CRP5	Consider the environmental, social and economic impacts of decisions.
CRP.K-12.CRP6	Demonstrate creativity and innovation.
CRP.K-12.CRP7	Employ valid and reliable research strategies.
CRP.K-12.CRP8	Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
CRP.K-12.CRP9	Model integrity, ethical leadership and effective management.
CRP.K-12.CRP10	Plan education and career paths aligned to personal goals.
CRP.K-12.CRP11	Use technology to enhance productivity.
CRP.K-12.CRP12	Work productively in teams while using cultural global competence.

Technology / Integration of Computer Science and Design Thinking

TECH.8.1.8	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.8.1.8.A	Technology Operations and Concepts: Students demonstrate a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems and operations.
TECH.8.1.8.A.1	Demonstrate knowledge of a real world problem using digital tools.
TECH.8.1.8.E	Research and Information Fluency: Students apply digital tools to gather, evaluate, and use information.
TECH.8.1.8.E.1	Effectively use a variety of search tools and filters in professional public databases to find information to solve a real world problem.
TECH.8.2.8	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.
TECH.8.2.8.B	Technology and Society: Knowledge and understanding of human, cultural and society values are fundamental when designing technology systems and products in the global

	society.
TECH.8.2.8.B.2	Identify the desired and undesired consequences from the use of a product or system.
TECH.8.2.8.B.5	Identify new technologies resulting from the demands, values, and interests of individuals, businesses, industries and societies.
TECH.8.2.8.E	Computational Thinking: Programming: Computational thinking builds and enhances problem solving, allowing students to move beyond using knowledge to creating knowledge.
TECH.8.2.8.E.1	Identify ways computers are used that have had an impact across the range of human activity and within different careers where they are used.

Interdisciplinary Connections: NJSL for ELA, Social Studies, Science and/or Math Section

Integration of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Climate Change; Informational and Media Literacy New Section

see Crosswalks

21st Century Life and Careers

Stage I: Desired Results

Transfer/Overview/Rationale

Transfer / Overview / Rationale
<p>Unit Rationale</p> <p>The purpose of this unit...</p> <p>Students will be introduced to the field of Forensics by will learning about the history, development, organization, services and functions of the forensic scientist and lab. By learning about the development of Forensics, students will recognize the relationship between science and societal needs. Students will develop the skill to think critically in a given situation and learn to communicate their scientific findings.</p>

Meaning

Essential Questions

Essential Questions

How did forensics begin in history and how does it affect modern society?

What is the role of the forensic scientist?

What are the appropriate roles for scientific technology and human judgment in arriving at verdicts in criminal cases?

What may influence the eyewitness testimony?

Enduring Understanding/Indicators of Understanding

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Forensic science is the process of gathering and examining information about the past which is then used in a court of law.

Observation skills are extremely important in forensics science, especially when processing a crime scene.

Acquisition (Student Learning Objectives)

Knowledge

Knowledge

Students will know...

How forensics originated and grew as a science to the point that it is used today.

Technology has influence the development of various processing techniques.

The scientific method is used at a crime scene and crime lab.

Eyewitness accounts are useful, but not always accurate.

Forensic science requires expertise in many specialized areas.

Skills

Skills

Student will be skilled at ...

Students will recall the major contributors to the development of forensic science.

Students will explain what may influence eyewitness testimony.

Students will explain why perception is important in forensics.

Stage 3: Learning Plan

Resource and Mentor Texts

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Chromebooks

Schoology

Internet/Videos

PowerPoint/Google Presentations

Google Forms

Smart board/Interactive Websites

Document Camera

Lab Materials

Copies of Worksheets

Smart Notebook Files

Formative Assessment Strategies

Formative Assessment Strategies

Observations

Questioning/Polling

Group Discussions

Graphic Organizers

Peer/Self Assessments (Reflection)

Individual Whiteboards

Notebook Checks

Learning Activities/Unit of Study

Learning Activities/Unit of Study

Daily Warm-Ups

Inquiry-Based Learning

Non-Fiction Reading/Writing

Historical Research

Note Taking/Annotations

Performance/Lab Based

Classroom/Small Group Discussions

Case Studies

Eye Witness Exercises

Guest Speakers

Modifications and/or Accommodations

Suggested Modifications (ELL, Sp. Ed, Gifted, At-risk of Failure)

English Language Learners

Native language support: The teacher provides auditory or written content to students in their native language.

Adjusted Speech: The teacher changes speech patterns to increase student comprehension. This could include facing the students, paraphrasing, clearly indicating the most important ideas, and speaking more slowly.

Visuals: The teacher uses graphics, pictures, visuals, and manipulatives. This helps ELL students better understand and comprehend the subjects at hand.

Front-Loading Vocabulary: The teacher front loads vocabulary. This means providing students with a list of important vocabulary words they will need to know for a book, lesson, etc. prior to the lesson being taught. Including pictures to go with the vocabulary words is also very beneficial for the students.

Special Education Students

Chunking: The teacher presents information in a way that makes it easy for students to understand and remember. Chunking is based on the presumption that our working memory is easily overloaded by excessive detail. The best way to deliver information is to organize it into meaningful units. Because students with special needs get overloaded easily, chunking is an effective strategy to use with them.

Checking for Understanding: It is important to constantly check for understanding, especially for students who have accommodations. Teachers want to make sure students understand the concepts being covered in a way that makes sense to them.

Extra time: The teacher provides students with special needs extra time to complete work or answer questions. It is important to give students enough time to process their thoughts.

Oral Reading: The teacher will read work orally to students. Class work such as tests and literature circles may need to be read aloud to the student.

Timers: The teacher will use timers as an instructional tool. The use of timers is beneficial for students who have trouble completing tasks. Timers can be helpful so the student is aware of how much time they have to complete an assignment.

Students with 504 Plans

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Gifted & Talented Strategies

Extensions/Enrichments: Teachers will provide gifted and talented students with extension/enrichment projects. Students will be challenged to further their understanding, to apply acquired knowledge, and/or to produce something in reference to acquired knowledge.

Modify/Change Activities: Teachers will monitor and modify activities to accommodate those students who need to be challenged further. Additional reading, problem-solving, writing, or project work is necessary for those students who are ready to move on at a rate more accelerated than their peers. In this way, G & T students are provided the same opportunity for support as special needs students.

Students at Risk of School Failure

Directions or Instructions: Make sure directions and/or instructions are given in limited numbers. Give directions/instructions verbally and in simple written format. Ask students to repeat the instructions or directions to ensure understanding occurs. Check back with the student to ensure he/she hasn't forgotten.

Peer Support: Peers can help build confidence in other students by assisting in peer learning. Many teachers use the 'ask 3 before me' approach. This is fine, however, a student at risk may have to have a specific student or two to ask. Set this up for the student so he/she knows who to ask for clarification before going to you.

Alternate or Modified Assignments: Always ask yourself, "How can I modify this assignment to

ensure the students at risk are able to complete it?" Sometimes you'll simplify the task, reduce the length of the assignment or allow for a different mode of delivery. For instance, many students may hand something in, the at-risk student may jot notes and give you the information verbally. Or, it just may be that you will need to assign an alternate assignment.

Increase One to One Time: When other students are working, always touch base with your students at risk and find out if they're on track or needing some additional support. A few minutes here and there will go a long way to intervene as the need presents itself.

Contracts: It helps to have a working contract between you and your students at risk. This helps prioritize the tasks that need to be done and ensure completion happens. Each day write down what needs to be completed, as the tasks are done, provide a checkmark or happy face. The goal of using contracts is to eventually have the student come to you for completion sign-offs.

Hands On: As much as possible, think in concrete terms and provide hands-on tasks. This means a child doing math may require a calculator or counters. The child may need to tape record comprehension activities instead of writing them. A child may have to listen to a story being read instead of reading it him/herself.

Tests/Assessments: Tests can be done orally if need be. Break tests down in smaller increments by having a portion of the test in the morning, another portion after lunch and the final part the next day.

Seating: Seat students near a helping peer or with quick access to the teacher. Those with hearing or sight issues need to be close to the instruction which often means near the front.