

SCIENCE CURRICULUM GRADE ONE

The Grade One Science curriculum includes science kits on weather, organisms, and matter. An optional kit entitled, "Life Around You" is also available. All of these kits focus on expanding the first graders natural curiosity and enthusiasm. Each kit emphasizes the gathering of data through personal observations.

I. Weather

Weather is a 16 lesson unit that introduces students to specific weather features. Children are exposed to several tools of science (i.e. thermometers) that aid in the observation and prediction of weather. During the unit focus is on observing, discussing, measuring and recording data. Areas covered include cloud cover and types of clouds, forms of precipitation, wind, and temperature.

II. Matter

Matter is a unit from the MacMillan kit Matter and Magnets. The unit explores the structure and properties of matter. Students participate in exploratory activities that provide opportunities to observe and classify matter, measure matter, and examine the three states of matter. Students are guided to develop the concept that matter is everything in the universe that has mass and takes up space. They also learn that matter has properties that can be observed and measured. These ideas are developed through the use of the student book "What Is Everything Made Of?" and through various materials, worksheets, and activities involving matter.

III. Organisms ... (optional kit ... Weather and Matter should be completed prior to this kit being utilized)

Organisms is a 16 lesson unit designed for first graders to expose them to the diversity of life. Students are encouraged to observe the things that living organisms need in order to survive. Students do this by using their senses to observe and compare various plants and animals as they grow in the habitats created in the classroom. Students discover similarities and differences by comparing organisms using Venn diagrams. The concluding lesson has students apply what they have learned to themselves.

Supplemental Unit

LIFE AROUND YOU

Life Around You is a Macmillan kit based mainly on the material in two student books. "What's All the Buzz About?" introduces students to a meadow habitat with the main focus on plant life. Students are introduced to plants and their needs as they study the structures and functions of various plant parts. Plant and animal interdependence within the meadow habitat is introduced by looking at a simple food chain. "Animals That Fly, Crawl Jump & Swim" focuses on the life cycles of arthropods, fish, and amphibians that live near a pond ecosystem. Students observe the life cycle of a butterfly and the characteristics of a variety of jointed-legged arthropods. The characteristics of fish are discussed as well as how they live and move in water. The primary amphibian studied is the frog. Students compare the frog to other amphibians and learn about its life cycle.