

**TEWKSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCIENCE CURRICULUM
GRADE THREE**

The Third Grade Science Curriculum is presented to the students through a guided inquiry approach which involves students gathering data through observations, questioning ideas, keeping accurate information, communicating the findings with others, and recording results through graphs, charts, maps, and reports. The current curriculum consists of three units which cover certain aspects of the MA Curriculum Framework Science strands: Earth, Life, and Physical Science with Technology/Engineering components.

I. Rocks and Minerals

Earth Science is presented through MacMillan's *Earth Beneath Your Feet* unit. Students will explore properties of earth materials and how they change. Students will conduct tests and activities to classify minerals and rocks by observing properties. They identify and explain the properties that help determine the origin of rocks: metamorphic, igneous, and sedimentary.

II. Plant Growth and Development

Life Science is presented through STC's *Plant Growth and Development* unit. Students will begin to expand the range of observations they make of the living world. Students will record details of the life cycles of plants and will move beyond using their senses to gather information. They will begin to use measuring devices to gather information. They will begin to use measuring devices to gather quantitative data that they record, examine, interpret, and communicate.

III. Investigating Life Cycles

In this Life Science unit, students develop the concept of a life cycle by observing, describing, and comparing the life cycles of four organisms: sweet peas, brine shrimp, darkling beetles, and painted lady butterflies. They record observations of the organisms in science journals and compare and contrast the growth and development of those organisms.