3rd Grade Mystery Science Lessons

Power of Flowers: Plant Life Cycle & Heredity

This unit develops the idea that by studying how plants reproduce and pass on their traits, we human beings have figured out how to make food plants even more useful to us. Students first discover how plants reproduce by exploring the process of pollination and fruiting. Then students are introduced to the process of plant domestication (selection of traits based on inheritance and variation).

Lesson 1: Why do plants grow flowers?

Lesson 2: Why do plants give us fruit?

Lesson 3: Why are some apples red and some green?

Lesson 4: How could you make the biggest fruit in the world?

Animals Through Time: Animal Survival & Heredity

In this unit students will develop an appreciation for how animals and the places they live (their habitats) are not constant—they have changed over time. Fossils give us a window to the animals and habitats of the past. Selective breeding shows us not only how some animals of the past became domesticated, but allows us to imagine how they might look in the future.

Lesson 1: Where can you find whales in the desert?

Lesson 2: How do we know what dinosaurs looked like?

Lesson 3: Can you outrun a dinosaur?

Lesson 4: What kinds of animals might there be in the future?

Lesson 5: Can selection happen without people?

Lesson 6: Why do dogs wag their tails?

Lesson 7: What's the best way to get rid of mosquitoes?

Lesson 8: How long can people (and animals) survive in outer space?