Year 4 Science Curriculum

Topics

1. Living Things and their habitats
2. Animals Inc. Humans
3. States of Matter
4. Sound
5. Electricity

Key

Observing over time
Identifying and classifying
Pattern seeking
Research from a secondary source
Fair testing

Cross curricular

Websites

Explorify – www.explorify.wellcome.ac.uk

TigTag – www.tigtagworld.co.uk

Y4 Living things and their habitats

1. recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways
2. explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment
3. recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things

	Assessment guidance	Key learning	Possible Evidence
SECURE	Shows understanding of a concept using scientific vocabulary correctly	Living things can be grouped (classified) in different ways according to their features. Classification keys can be used to identify and name living things. Living things live in a habitat which provides an environment to which they are suited (year 2 learning). These environments may change naturally e.g. through flooding, fire, earthquakes etc. Humans also cause the environment to change. This can be in a good way i.e. positive human impact, such as setting up nature reserves or in a bad way i.e. negative human impact, such as littering. These environments also change with the seasons; different living things can be found in a habitat at different times of the year **Key vocabulary** Classification, classification keys, environment, habitat, human impact, positive, negative, migrate, hibernate	Can name living things living in a range of habitats, giving the key features that helped them to identify them Can give examples of how an environment may change both naturally and due to human impact
	Applying knowledge in familiar related contexts, including a range of enquiries	Observe plants and animals in different habitats throughout the year Compare and contrast the living things observed Use classification keys to name unknown living things Classify living things found in different habitats based on their features Create a simple identification key based on observable features Use fieldwork to explore human impact on the local environment e.g. litter, tree planting Use secondary sources to find out about how environments may naturally change Use secondary sources to find out about human impact, both positive and negative, on environments	Can keep a careful record of living things found in different habitats throughout the year (diagrams, tally charts etc.) Can use classification keys to identify unknown plants and animals Can present their learning about changes to the environment in different ways e.g. campaign video, persuasive letter

Y4 Animals including humans

1. describe the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system in humans
2. identify the different types of teeth in humans and their simple functions
3. construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey

	Assessment guidance	Key learning	Possible Evidence
SECURE	Shows understanding of a concept using scientific vocabulary correctly	Food enters the body through the mouth. Digestion starts when the teeth start to break the food down. Saliva is added and the tongue rolls the food into a ball. The food is swallowed and passes down the oesophagus to the stomach. Here the food is broken down further by being churned around and other chemicals are added. The food passes into the small intestine. Here nutrients are removed from the food and leave the digestive system to be used elsewhere in the body. The rest of the food then passes into the large intestine. Here the water is removed for use elsewhere in the body. What is left is then stored in the rectum until it leaves the body through the anus when you go to the toilet. Humans have four types of teeth - incisors for cutting, canines for tearing, molars and premolars for grinding (chewing). Living things can be classified as producers, predators and prey according to their place in the food chain. **Key vocabulary** Digestive system, digestion, mouth, teeth, saliva, oesophagus, stomach, small intestine, nutrients, large intestine, rectum, anus, teeth, incisor, canine, molar, premolars, herbivore, carnivore, omnivore, producer, predator, prey, food chain	Can sequence the main parts of the digestive system Can draw the main parts of the digestive system onto a human outline Can describe what happens in each part of the digestive system Can point to the three different types of teeth in their mouth and talk about their shape and what they are used for Can name producers, predators and prey within a habitat Can construct food chains
	Applying knowledge in familiar related contexts, including a range of enquiries	Research the function of the parts of the digestive system Create a model of the digestive system using household objects Explore eating different types of food, to identify which teeth are being used for cutting, tearing and grinding (chewing) Classify animals as herbivores, carnivores or omnivores according to the type of teeth they have in their skulls Use food chains to identify producers, predators and prey within a habitat Use secondary sources to identify animals in a habitat and find out what they eat	Can use diagrams or a model to describe the journey of food through the body explaining what happens in each part. Can record the teeth in their mouth (make a dental record) Can explain the role of the different types of teeth Can explain how the teeth in animal skulls show they are carnivores, herbivores or omnivores. Can create food chains based on research

Y4 States of matter

1. compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases
2. observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled, and measure or research the temperature at which this happens in degrees Celsius (°C)
3. identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and associate the rate of evaporation with temperature

	Assessment guidance	Key learning	Possible Evidence
SECURE	Shows understanding of a concept using scientific vocabulary correctly	A solid keeps its shape and has a fixed volume. A liquid has a fixed volume but changes in shape to fit the container. A liquid can be poured and keeps a level, horizontal surface. A gas fills all available space; it has no fixed shape or volume. Granular and powdery solids like sand can be confused with liquids because they can be poured, but when poured they form a heap and they do not keep a level surface when tipped. Each individual grain demonstrates the properties of a solid. Melting is a state change from solid to liquid. Freezing is a state change from liquid to solid. The freezing point of water is 0°C. Boiling is a change of state from liquid to gas that happens when a liquid is heated to a specific temperature and bubbles of the gas can be seen in the liquid. Water boils when it is heated to 100°C. Evaporation is the same state change as boiling (liquid to gas) but it happens slowly at lower temperatures and only at the surface of the liquid. Evaporation happens more quickly if the temperature is higher, the liquid is spread out or it is windy. Condensation is the change back from a gas to a liquid caused by cooling. Water at the surface of seas, rivers etc. evaporates into water vapour (a gas). This rises, cools and condenses back into a liquid forming clouds. When too much water has condensed the water droplets in the cloud get too heavy and fall back down as rain, snow, sleet etc. and drain back into rivers etc. This is known as precipitation. This is the water cycle. **Key vocabulary** Solid, liquid, gas, state change, melting, freezing, melting point, boiling point, evaporation, temperature, water cycle	Can create a concept map, including arrows linking the key vocabulary Can name properties of solids, liquids and gases Can give everyday examples of melting and freezing Can give everyday examples of evaporation and condensation Can describe the water cycle
	Applying knowledge in familiar related contexts, including a range of enquiries	Observe closely and classify a range of solids Observe closely and classify a range of liquids Explore making gases visible e.g. squeezing sponges under water to see bubbles, and showing their effect e.g. using straws to blow objects, trees moving in the wind Classify materials according to whether they are solids, liquids and gases Observe a range of materials melting e.g. ice, chocolate, butter Investigate how to melt ice more quickly Observe the changes when making rocky road cakes or ice-cream Investigating melting point of different materials e.g. ice, margarine, butter and chocolate Explore freezing different liquids e.g. tomato ketchup, oil, shampoo Use a thermometer to measure temperatures e.g. icy water (melting), tap water, hot water, boiling water (demonstration) Observe water evaporating and condensing e.g. on cups of icy water and hot water Set up investigations to explore changing the rate of evaporation e.g. washing, puddles, handprints on paper towels, liquids in containers Use secondary sources to find out about the water cycle	Can give reasons to justify why something is a solid liquid or gas Can give examples of things that melt/freeze and how their melting points vary From their observations, can give the melting points of some materials Using their data, can explain what affects how quickly a solid melts Can measure temperatures using a thermometer Can explain why there is condensation on the inside the hot water cup but on the outside of the icy water cup From their data, can explain how to speed up or slow down evaporation Can present their learning about the water cycle in a range of ways e.g. diagrams, explanation text, story of a water droplet

Y4 Sound

1. identify how sounds are made, associating some of them with something vibrating
2. recognise that vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear
3. find patterns between the pitch of a sound and features of the object that produced it
4. find patterns between the volume of a sound and the strength of the vibrations that produced it
5. recognise that sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases

	Assessment guidance	**Key learning**	**Possible evidence**
SECURE	Shows understanding of a concept using scientific vocabulary correctly	A sound source produces vibrations which travel through a medium from the source to our ears. Different mediums such as solids, liquids and gases can carry sound but sound cannot travel through a vacuum (an area empty of matter). The vibrations cause parts of our body inside our ears to vibrate, allowing us to hear (sense) the sound. The loudness (volume) of the sound depends on the strength (size) of vibrations which decreases as they travel through the medium. Therefore, sounds decrease in volume as you move away from the source. A sound insulator is a material which blocks sound effectively. Pitch is the highness or lowness of a sound and is affected by features of objects producing the sounds. For example, smaller objects usually produce higher pitched sounds. **Key Vocabulary** Sound, source, vibrate, vibration, travel, pitch (high, low), volume, faint, loud, insulation	Can name sound sources and state that sounds are produced by the vibration of the object. Can state that sounds travel through different mediums such as air, water, metal Can give examples to demonstrate how the pitch of a sound are linked to the features of the object that produced it Can give examples of how to change the volume of a sound e.g. increase the size of vibrations by hitting or blowing harder Can give examples to demonstrate that sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases
	Applying knowledge in familiar related contexts, including a range of enquiries	Classify sound sources Explore making sounds with a range of objects such as musical instruments and other household objects Explore how string telephones or ear gongs work Explore using objects that change in feature to change pitch and volume such as length of guitar string, bottles of water or tuning forks Measure sounds over different distances Measure sounds through different insulation materials	Can explain what happens when you strike a drum or pluck a string and use a diagram to show how sounds travel from an object to the ear Can demonstrate how to increase or decrease pitch and volume using musical instruments or other objects Can use data to identify patterns in pitch and volume Can explain how loudness can be reduced by moving further from the sound source or by using a sound insulating medium

Y4 Electricity

1. identify common appliances that run on electricity
2. construct a simple series electrical circuit, identifying and naming its basic parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers
3. identify whether or not a lamp will light in a simple series circuit, based on whether or not the lamp is part of a complete loop with a battery
4. recognise that a switch opens and closes a circuit and associate this with whether or not a lamp lights in a simple series circuit
5. recognise some common conductors and insulators, and associate metals with being good conductors

	Assessment guidance	Key learning	Possible Evidence
SECURE	Shows understanding of a concept using scientific vocabulary correctly	Many household devices and appliances run on electricity. Some plug in to the mains and others run on batteries. An electrical circuit consists of a cell or battery connected to a component using wires. If there is a break in the circuit, a loose connection or a short circuit the component will not work. A switch can be added to the circuit to turn the component on and off. Metals are good conductors so they can be used as wires in a circuit. Non-metallic solids are insulators except for graphite (pencil lead). Water, if not completely pure, also conducts electricity **Key Vocabulary** Electricity, electrical appliance/device, mains, plug, electrical circuit, complete circuit, component, cell, battery, positive, negative, connect/connections, loose connection, short circuit, crocodile clip, bulb, switch, buzzer, motor, conductor, insulator, metal, non-metal, symbol N.B. Children in year 4 do not ned to use standard symbols as this is taught in year 6	Can name the components in a circuit Can make electric circuits Can control a circuit using a switch Can name some metals that are conductors Can name materials that are insulators
	Applying knowledge in familiar related contexts, including a range of enquiries	Construct a range of circuits Explore which materials can be used instead of wires to make a circuit Classify the materials that were suitable/not suitable for wires Explore how to connect a range of different switches and investigate how they function in different ways Choose switches to add to circuits to solve particular problems such as a pressure switch for a burglar alarm Apply their knowledge of conductors and insulators to design and make different types of switch Make circuits that can be controlled as part of a D&T project N.B. Children should be given one component at a time to add to circuits.	Can communicate structures of circuits using drawings which show how the components are connected Use classification evidence to identify that metals are good conductors and non-metals are insulators Can incorporate a switch into a circuit to turn it on and off Can connect a range of different switches identifying the parts that are insulators and conductors Can add a circuit with a switch to a DT project and can demonstrate how it works Can give reasons for choice of materials for making different parts of a switch Can describe how their switch works