

1st Grade – Life Science: Traits and Structures

- Week 1
 - **Nature Walk** - Go on a nature walk around the school grounds or your neighborhood with an adult. Make observations of all the living and nonliving things you see. Record their observations in your science notebooks during the walk in two columns, living and non-living.
 - **Crawly Comparison** - Compare an earthworm with a gummy worm. Record your observations of the two objects and explain why an earthworm is considered living but the gummy worm is nonliving.
- Week 2
 - **Read literacy Article 2C: Food for Thought** ([link](#)): Reading supports the understanding of external parts on an organisms that helps them secure food.
 - **Animal Adaptations** – Read or listen to [What Do You Do with a Tail Like This? by Steve Jenkins](#) or another picture book about animal adaptations or body structures.
 - Predict what they think each animal’s body part is used for. Have students relate each body part to how it helps the animal survive.
 - **How Many is That?** - Find the answer to the following problems without counting. Explain the reasoning they used to reach their answer.
 - A squirrel collects 30 acorns. Another squirrel collects 10. How many acorns were collected by the squirrels?
 - Chris picked apples last weekend with his family. He picked 77 apples total. Chris gave 10 apples to his grandma on his way home. How many apples does Chris have left?
 - **A Tail Like This** – Humans and animals share some common features. We use our eyes to see, our nose to smell, and our ears to hear. Animals use those same features to help them survive by finding food and sense danger. Click [here](#) to see a short video and learn more.
- Week 3
 - **Read literacy Article 3A: Weird Parents** ([link](#)): Reading supports the understanding of how animal parents care for their young.
 - **Are You My Mother?** - Read or listen to [Are You My Mother? by P.D. Eastman](#). Discuss the living and nonliving things the baby bird comes in contact with during his journey with an adult. Answer the following questions:
 - Why did the baby bird’s mom leave the nest?
 - How was the mom trying to take care of her baby?



- How did the baby bird try to communicate when it was upset and scared at the end of the book?
 - What sorts of noises do you think a real baby bird makes when it is upset or scared? Can you give an example?
- **Animal Dads** - In most animal species, mothers or a mother-and-father team look after the offspring. In some animal species, however, fathers take special care of the offspring. Read a book about animal dads or explore websites below that discuss fascinating care that animal dads give to their young. Afterward, describe in your science notebook ways that their fathers take care of them.
 - **5 Remarkable Dads** - <https://www.worldwildlife.org/stories/5-remarkable-animal-dads>
 - **Live Science** - <https://www.livescience.com/14651-animal-kingdom-devoted-dads.html>
- **Animal Families** – Families are our introduction to society. By living and growing within a small connected group, we are prepared for encounters with larger groups within society. Click [here](#) to see a short video and learn more
- **Week 4**
 - **Take Home Science Sheet** [\(link\)](#): **Looking at the Past**
 - **Read literacy Article 4C: The Tree and the Frog** [\(link\)](#): Reading supports the understanding of how animals change as they grow
 - **Comparing Babies** - Compare the number of babies that two different sets of parents have. Determine whether you should use a less-than, greater-than, or equal sign when comparing the two numbers.
 - A sea turtle lays 96 eggs that will hatch into babies. A snake lays 42 eggs that will hatch into babies. Compare the numbers of babies using a >, <, or = sign.
 - A mouse has 21 babies, and a rabbit has 23 babies. Compare the numbers of babies using >, <, or =.
 - **Seed to Fruit** - Click [here](#) to see the different stages of growth in the life of a cherry tomato plant using a short video.
- **Week 5**
 - **Animal Research** - Research an animal and discover at least one adaptation that helps it better survive. Draw a picture of your animal and label the adaptation(s) you learned about.
 - **A-Z Career Lab: Botanist** – See how plants make the world better as you learn about rewarding careers. Click [here](#) to learn more.



- **How Animals Shaped Our World** – Imitation is the most sincere form of flattery, and for years, humans have been using animals as inspiration for everything from fashion to architecture. In the engineering world, this is called biomimicry. And you may be surprised by how many inventions have truly been inspired by animal design and behavior. Click [here](#) to see 20 of the coolest examples.

