

Year Four Science Progression Steps

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Year 4	Developing	Expected Standard	Exceeding	Scientific Language		
Animals, including humans (Biology) Describe the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system in humans. Identify the different types of teeth in humans and their simple functions. Construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey	 Pupil understands that animals, including humans, eat food and the digestive system breaks this down to give energy and nutrients Pupil can name some parts of the digestive system Pupil understands that there are different types of teeth and recognises some of their functions Pupil recognises the importance of good oral hygiene to prevent tooth decay Pupil can create simple food chains which identify predators, prey and producers 	 Pupil can explain the process of digestion as the breakdown of food to nutrients required by the body Pupil can label the main parts of the digestive system and describe the function of each part Pupil can name the different types of teeth in humans and other animals explaining their function Pupil recognises that herbivores, omnivores and carnivores have different types of teeth depending on their diet Pupil can explain how tooth decay occurs and ways to prevent decay Pupil can create and describe food chains and webs in a wide range of habitats Pupil identifies producers and consumers at different levels in the food chain/web – primary, secondary, tertiary 	 Pupil is aware of some problems which may occur if one part of the digestive system is not working as it should Pupil can describe the absorption of nutrients by the body at different points in the digestive system Pupil can compare the different types of teeth in carnivores, omnivores and herbivores describing the number and their position in the jaw Pupil can design an investigation to replicate the conditions leading to tooth decay and use this to suggest prevention strategies Pupil can discuss the movement of energy through increasingly complex food chains or food webs Pupil can identify the apex predator(s) in an Eco-system and the impact of their decline or population explosion upon other animals/plants 	Digestion: digestive system; food; nutrients; mouth; tongue; teeth; oesophagus; stomach; small intestine; large intestine; rectum; anus; mucus; peristalsis; acid; absorption Teeth: carnivore; herbivore; omnivore; tooth; incisor; molar; pre-molar; canine; biting; holding; tearing; grinding; root; gum; jaw bone; tooth decay; plaque; enamel; dentine; pulp Food chains: predator; prey; food chain; producer; consumer; food webs; ecosystem; habitat; apex predator; photosynthesis; decompose; scavenger		
Electricity (Physics) Identify common appliances that run on electricity.	 Pupil understands that appliances need electricity to operate and name some common appliances. Pupil knows that electricity is 	 Pupil can identify appliances which run on electricity – specifying if this is mains or battery and offering simple reasons for the difference Pupil understands that electricity is dangerous 	 Pupils can identify the different amounts of electricity to run a range of appliances e.g. car, TV, kettle Pupil can discuss the effect of electric shock 	electricity; electrical appliance/device; mains; plug; electrical circuit; complete circuit; component;		
Construct a simple series electrical	dangerous and can follow simple	and how to keep safe when using electricity.	upon the body, especially the heart	cell; battery; positive;		
basic parts, including cells, wires	themselves safe	 Pupil can construct a simple series circuit with multiple components and name the different 	 Pupil devises a practical circuit to solve a problem in the class e.g. alarm to protect the 	connect/connections: short		
bulbs, switches and buzzers.	Pupil can build a simple circuit using	parts.	teacher's desk.	circuit; crocodile clip; switch;		
	a battery, wire and one component.	• Pupil can include a simple switch in a circuit and	 Pupil can include several switches within a 	bulb; buzzer; motor;		
Identify whether or not a lamp will light	Pupil understands that a circuit	explain how it works.	circuit which will operate different	conductor; insulator; metal;		
In a simple series circuit, based on	must be complete for current to	Pupil can devise investigations to classify	components	safety: electrocute: current:		
complete loop with a battery.	now	materials as electrical conductors or insulators.	 Pupil can develop circuits incorporating a range of components and switches. The latter 	voltage; open/closed switch;		

Recognise that a switch opens and closes a circuit and associate this with whether or not a lamp lights in a simple series circuit. Recognise some common conductors and insulators, and associate metals with being good conductors	 Pupil understands that most metals are electrical conductors and nonmetals electrical insulators. Pupil attempts to draw a simple circuit diagram with some clearly identified components 	 Pupil draws simple diagrams (pictorial representation) to show the sequence of components in the circuit. Pupil can explain what happens to the brightness of a bulb if more bulbs are placed in the circuit or additional cells added. 	 helping them to classify materials as insulators or conductors. Pupil recognises the universally accepted symbols for a range of components and use in their drawings Pupil is aware of the terms current and voltage from their knowledge of electricity and defines them in simple terms e.g. flow and push of electricity around the circuit 	
 Living things and their habitats (Biology) Recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways Explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment Recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things 	 Pupil can describe the basic differences between the main animal groups Pupil can use a simple key to identify the main animal groups Pupil can describe some aspects of local environmental change caused by human activity e.g. litter in park Pupil can give some reasons for how environmental change can affect other living things 	 Pupil can name the main animal and plant groups describing their features Pupil can use a dichotomous key to identify groups of animals and plants Pupil can create a simple dichotomous key to identify some living things in their local environment Pupil is aware that man's actions can have an impact upon the lives of other living creatures at a local and global scale e.g. deforestation; global warming; polluting coastlines/ponds or hedges Pupil can suggest some changes to the actions of man which can address and/or reverse environmental change Pupil can explain how some plants and animals can adapt to changing environmental conditions 	 Pupils can identify animals and plants from a range of habitats by their key features Pupil can use a variety of identification keys to identify groups of animals and within groups individual species Pupil can create identification keys to enable a range of different audiences to identify living things in their local, regional or global environment Pupil can explain with confidence and appropriate vocabulary the impact of man upon global and local environments recognising the cause and effect of man's actions Pupils can suggest a series of actions which could lead to permanent improvements to environments affected by man's actions Pupils begin to explore and describe the long term adaptations living things make in response to environmental change which are not reversible 	classification; groups; branching database (dichotomous key); vertebrates; invertebrates; exoskeleton; endoskeleton; mammals; reptiles; amphibians; birds; fish; snails; slugs; worms; spiders; insects; flowering plants; non-flowering plants; environment; eco- system; pollution; damage; deforestation; global warming; floods; litter; desertification; drought; nature reserves; conservation; habitat; camouflage; organism; species; conditions; characteristics; adaptations
Sound (Physics) Recognise that vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear. Find patterns between the pitch of a sound and features of the object that produced it. Find patterns between the volume of a sound and the strength of the vibrations that produced it. Recognise that sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases.	 Pupil suggests why some sounds are louder than others Pupil can explain that sound travels by vibrations through a medium. Pupil understands that sound can vary in pitch and volume Pupil understands that some materials can insulate sounds 	 Pupil can explain that sound becomes fainter the further you move from the sound source. Pupil can label a simple diagram of the ear to show how a sound is heard. Pupil can describe how a sound comes from a vibration travelling through a medium e.g. air to the ear, which transmits it to the brain by the auditory nerve for interpretation Pupil can explain that sound travels at different speeds through different media. Pupil can describe how to change the pitch of a sound. Pupil can suggest simple ways to create sound insulators to protect the ear from loud and/or high pitch sounds. 	 Pupil can suggest how sounds can be amplified when the distance from the source increases Pupil can label a detailed diagram of the ear showing the movement of a sound wave from source to auditory nerve Pupil understands that sound cannot be made/heard in a vacuum such as in space. Pupil explains how they could investigate the types of sound made by different types of sound maker to demonstrate pitch/volume Pupil can describe how materials can be sound insulators/conductors and create models to demonstrate their effectiveness. 	Sound; volume; pitch; vibration; medium; conduct; conductor; insulate; insulator; amplify; tuning fork; decibel; high; low; natural; man-made; echo; vacuum; sound waves; sonar; sound proof; outer ear; auditory canal; ear drum; cochlea; auditory nerve; voice box; vocal chords; larynx; tongue; hammer; anvil; stirrup.

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States of Matter (Chemistry)	Pupil can identify solids, liquids and	Pupil can define and group a range of materials	 Pupils research a range of gases and their 	matter; solid; liquid; gas;
Compare and group materials	gases in their environment	as solids, liquids and gases	properties considering the temperatures when	vapour; expand; contract;
together, according to whether they	Pupils are beginning to understand	Pupil can explain that materials can change	a change of state occur	particles; thermometer;
are solids, liquids or gases.	that matter can change state	their state and that this is affected by	 Pupils can suggest other ways that changes of 	temperature; degrees; Celsius;
	Pupils recognise that water can exist	temperature	state may happen e.g. chemical.	heating; cooling; freezing;
Observe that some materials change	in 3 states	Pupil can explain the different temperatures at	 Pupils explore the temperatures at which a 	melting; dissolve; soluble;
state when they are heated or	 – ice (solid); liquid water and water 	which water changes state and can suggest	range of materials change state and compare	solution; thermometer;
cooled, and measure or research the	vapour	how this could be investigated/measured	these to water	energy; change of state; Water
temperature at which this happens	 Pupil can see that evaporation and 	Pupil can describe the process of evaporation	 Pupil can give example of some changes of 	Cycle; evaporation;
in degrees Celsius (°C).	condensation is happening around	and condensation giving examples from the	state that are irreversible and others which	condensation; evaporate;
	them and offer examples	environment around them	are reversible	condense; degrees
Identify the part played by evaporation	Pupil can describe that the rate of	 Pupil can describe how evaporation and 	 Pupil can give detailed account of the Water 	
and condensation in the water cycle	evaporation seen for instance in the	condensation occur within the water cycle	Cycle noting clearly the changes of state which	
and associate the rate of evaporation	size of a puddle can change during	• Pupil can explain factors, such as wind,	occur	
with temperature	the day	temperature, surface of materials which may	 Pupil can describe the effect on the 	
		be perceived to affect the rate of evaporation	environment of prolonged periods when	
		and/or condensation	either high/low temperatures reduce moisture	
		•	levels and/or the rate of	
			evaporation/condensation	