



GRADE	<p>THE HUMAN JOURNEY</p> <p><i>An explorer understands where we came from, how we live today, and where we may find ourselves tomorrow.</i></p>	<p>OUR CHANGING PLANET</p> <p><i>An explorer understands the amazing, intricate, and interconnected systems of the changing planet we live on.</i></p>	<p>WILDLIFE AND WILD PLACES</p> <p><i>An explorer reveals, celebrates, and helps to protect the amazing and diverse creatures we share our world with.</i></p>
<p>PRE-K (3- and 4-year-olds)</p>	<p>Children are increasingly aware of different stages of the human life cycle.</p> <p>Children display enthusiasm for learning about themselves and others around them.</p>	<p>Children begin building vocabulary for natural features of the environment (e.g., river, mountain).</p> <p>Children begin to develop a framework of information about their world.</p> <p>Children are intuitively drawn to quantities, patterns, shapes, rhythms, symmetry—beginning an understanding of systems.</p>	<p>Children can describe or identify the basic characteristics of plants and animals.</p> <p>Children begin to think about the relationships among living things, their needs, and their surroundings.</p>
<p>K-1 (5- and 6-year-olds)</p>	<p>Children understand how groups of people are alike and different.</p> <p>Children can describe how people in the past lived.</p> <p>Children understand the role that culture plays in their community.</p>	<p>Children recognize that a globe is a representation of the Earth, and can point out the continents and oceans.</p> <p>Children understand what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive.</p> <p>Children understand that plants and animals can change their own environments (e.g. squirrels dig in the ground to hide food, tree roots break through concrete).</p>	<p>Children understand that humans impact the environment, and identify solutions, such as recycling.</p> <p>Children recognize the diversity of animal and plant life on the Earth.</p> <p>Children understand that humans, animals, and plants live in and share the same spaces and can impact each other.</p>
<p>2-3 (7- and 8-year-olds)</p>	<p>Children understand that fossils provide evidence that animals and humans lived long ago.</p> <p>Children understand that people choose to live and work in different places for different reasons.</p> <p>Children can describe how life in the past was similar to and different from life today.</p>	<p>Children can understand and use local and state maps and atlases.</p> <p>Children understand that plants and animals depend on each other to survive in an ecosystem.</p> <p>Children learn about the physical components that shape the Earth's features and patterns.</p>	<p>Children understand the concept of an ecosystem.</p> <p>Children understand that human actions impact animal habitats.</p> <p>Children understand that they can minimize negative effects on animals, plants, and habitats through their own behavior and actions.</p>



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<p>4 - 5 (9- and 10-year-olds)</p>	<p>Children understand how populations are distributed, and why people move from one place to another.</p> <p>Children explore stories about the past from different perspectives as if they lived at that time.</p> <p>Children know that a region can be defined by cultural elements and that these elements can either contribute to, or pose obstacles to, understanding.</p>	<p>Children analyze and interpret maps to describe patterns of Earth's physical and cultural features.</p> <p>Children identify ways individuals and communities are using science to protect the Earth's resources and environment.</p> <p>Children understand that living things affect the physical landscape of the areas, large and small, they live in.</p>	<p>Children recognize that in a healthy ecosystem, multiple species can coexist and meet their individual needs in a relatively stable web of life.</p> <p>Children understand the ways in which humans affect or change the physical environment and natural resources through activities such as dam construction and draining or rebuilding wetlands.</p>
<p>6 - 8 (11- to 13-year-olds)</p>	<p>Youth understand the ways in which people and societies are connected globally today and how they were connected in the past.</p> <p>Youth examine how past events impact our current world and future events.</p> <p>Youth focus on the role that cities play in our human story.</p>	<p>Youth understand that human activities impact Earth's living things in a variety of ways.</p> <p>Youth understand major Earth systems, especially the water cycle and the role it plays in shaping the Earth and its weather.</p> <p>Youth understand the global interdependent relationships that exist across Earth's ecosystems.</p>	<p>Youth are able to propose possible solutions to problems related to the protection of critical species.</p> <p>Youth recognize that global ecosystems are susceptible to change, and when they do change, there is a ripple effect in all of the ecosystems' populations.</p> <p>Youth understand that climate change, deforestation, and desertification are modifications to Earth's physical environment that are partly cyclical and partly caused by human activity.</p>
<p>9-12 (14- to 17-year-olds)</p>	<p>Youth understand the role culture plays in the development of individuals, groups, institutions, and societies globally.</p> <p>Youth understand that genetic information provides evidence of evolution.</p> <p>Youth understand that the distribution of natural resources and human populations on Earth determine patterns of global power and influence.</p>	<p>Youth make informed decisions about climate change based on examining evidence and data.</p> <p>Youth take action at individual and community levels to address negative human impacts on Earth's environment.</p> <p>Youth understand that the sustainability of human societies and the biodiversity that supports them requires responsible management of natural resources.</p> <p>Youth understand that cities and towns can create policies, such as those for recycling and waste disposal, that protect the natural environment.</p>	<p>Youth recognize and communicate that local decisions and actions can have far-reaching impacts on the global environment.</p> <p>Youth take action on issues related to the protection of species.</p>