

Pre-K Science

Month / Year	Essential Questions	Content	Skills	Assessment
August 2008	What does a rainforest (jungle) look like?	Rainforests	Discover the characteristics of the rainforest.	Teacher observation, student inquiry, class discussions, projects, experiments
	What types of plants and animals live in the rainforest?		Investigate plants and animals of the rainforest.	
	What is the climate in the rainforest?		Describe the climate of the rainforest.	
	How do we depend on rainforests?		Discuss the impact of the rainforest destruction.	
September	Where does our food come from?	Farms	Discover the progression from seed to crop/food.	
	What kinds of animals are found on a farm?		Investigate the various types of animals found on a farm.	
	How does weather effect crops?		Discuss the impact of weather on growing crops.	
	Where do apples come from?	Apples	Describe where apples come from.	
	Are all apples the same?		Sort / graph apples by color &/or taste.	
October	What should you do if there's a fire?	Fire Safety	Explain and role play the steps to be taken in the case of a fire at home or at school.	
	How can you prevent fires?		Investigate the common causes of fires and how to avoid them.	
	Why shouldn't you trick or treat in unfamiliar places?	Halloween Safety	Discuss the safety concerns of Halloween.	

Pre-K Science

	Is it important to have a parent with you when trick or treating?			
November	What causes popcorn to pop?	Popcorn	Investigate how heat combines with the water in the seed to change the popcorn seeds into fluffy, edible pieces.	
	Will all corn pop?		Investigate different types of corn and learn what is truly popcorn.	
	Is popcorn good for you?		Discuss the nutrition information that shows that popcorn is a healthy snack.	
	How long has popcorn been around?		Discover the history of popcorn.	
December	How do we learn about the world around us?	Five Senses	Discuss how we experience the world through our senses.	
	What are the five senses?		Investigate our senses: seeing, smelling, hearing, tasting, and touching.	
	Do everyone's senses work the same way?		Discover that there are people whose senses don't work like everyone else's. (Example: blind or deaf)	
	How does using our senses keep us safe?		Explain ways that our senses keep us safe.	
January	What are habitats?	Habitats	Investigate various types of habitats.	
	How do our habitats suit our needs?		Explore the habitats of people and animals, noting how they provide shelter and protection necessary to live.	
	How are our animals affected if their habitat changes?		Discuss the impact of plants and trees on animals.	

Pre-K Science

	What are the characteristics of the four seasons?	Seasons	Differentiate among the four seasons.	
February	How do our bodies work?	Health & Hygiene	Identify basic needs of living organisms.	
	Do our food choices and exercise habits effect us?		Discuss the benefits of healthy eating and exercise.	
	How are germs and sickness spread?		Discover how germs are spread and the need for good handwashing.	
	When should you wash your hands?		Explain when it's most important to wash your hands. (Example: after using the bathroom, before eating, or after blowing your nose)	
	Why is it important to take care of our teeth?		Understand the steps necessary to keep our teeth healthy.	
	What happens if we don't get enough sleep?		Investigate the need for rest	
	Does everyone in the world sleep at the same time?		Explore the concept of day/night around the world.	
March	Are there still dinosaurs alive today?	Dinosaurs	Investigate and discover that dinosaurs lived a long time ago - before people.	
	How do we know about dinosaurs?		Investigate ways that scientists have learned about dinosaurs.	
	What did dinosaurs eat?		Understand that some dinosaurs ate plants and some ate meat. Investigate their teeth and bodies to determine which type they were.	
	Are all dinosaurs the same?		Compare and contrast the different types of dinosaurs.	

Pre-K Science

April	How do animals grow and change?	Life Cycles	Understand that all animals grow and change .	
	Do all living things have babies like people do?		Investigate babies that grow within their mothers, living things that lay eggs, etc.	
	How have you changed since you were a baby?		Discuss the many changes since birth.	
	Where does a frog come from?		Discover the life cycle of a frog.	
	Where does a butterfly come from?		Discover the life cycle of a butterfly.	
	Where does a baby chick come from?		Discover the life cycle of a chick.	
May	What happens to certain foods when they are not stored properly?	Food Science	Experiment with a variety of foods / liquids over time including ice cube, ice-cream, slice of bread, slice of apple, cinnamon roll, biscuit, bag of frozen peas, butter, etc.	
	Does the brand of a food make a difference?		Investigate by doing a taste-test between two different brands. Graph the results.	
	How is buying fruits and vegetables different than other foods?		Explore how fruits and vegetables are bought based on their weight. Practice weighing and comparing different fruits and vegetables.	
	How are items in a grocery store arranged on the shelves?		Discover the science involved in stacking and balancing.	
	How do groceries keep from getting crushed when placed in the bags?		Investigate the proper way to bag groceries based on the size and weight of the items.	