

***Standards By Design:***

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***Sixth Grade for English Language Arts &  
Literacy (CCSS)***



# English Language Arts & Literacy (CCSS)

## Sixth Grade

Instruction in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects will prepare Oregon students to be proficient in the four strands of the English language arts (ELA) skills—Reading, Writing, Language, and Speaking and Listening. Because students need grade-level literacy skills to access full content in school, the emphasis in the Common Core is to learn to read and write in ELA and to develop those skills, specific to the content, in all other classes. For grades K-5, the ELA and subject-area literacy standards are integrated; for grades 6-11/12, they are separate but parallel.

**Literature - The following standards offer a focus for instruction in literary text and help ensure that students gain adequate exposure to a range of texts and tasks. Rigor is also infused through the requirement that students read increasingly complex texts through the grades.**

### Key Ideas and Details

Anchor Standard 1: Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

6.RL.1 Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

Anchor Standard 2: Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

6.RL.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

Anchor Standard 3: Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

6.RL.3 Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.

### Craft and Structure

Anchor Standard 4: Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.

6.RL.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.

Anchor Standard 5: Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.

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Standards are identified by grade, strand, and number (or number and letter, where applicable); for example, **8.RL.1**, means *grade 8, Reading Literature, standard 1*.

6.RL.5 Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.

Anchor Standard 6: Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

6.RL.6 Explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text.

### Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

Anchor Standard 7: Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

6.RL.7 Compare and contrast the experience of reading a story, drama, or poem to listening to or viewing an audio, video, or live version of the text, including contrasting what they “see” and “hear” when reading the text to what they perceive when they listen or watch.

Anchor Standard 8: Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.

6.RL.8 (Not applicable to literature)

Anchor Standard 9: Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

6.RL.9 Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres (e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories) in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics.

### Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

Anchor Standard 10: Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

6.RL.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 6–8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

**Informational Text - The following standards offer a focus for instruction in informational text and help ensure that students gain adequate exposure to a range of texts and tasks. Rigor is also infused through the requirement that students read increasingly complex texts through the grades.**

### Key Ideas and Details

Anchor Standard 1: Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

6.RI.1 Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

Anchor Standard 2: Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

6.RI.2 Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

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Standards are identified by grade, strand, and number (or number and letter, where applicable); for example, **8.RL.1**, means *grade 8, Reading Literature, standard 1*.

Anchor Standard 3: Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

6.RI.3 Analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and elaborated in a text (e.g., through examples or anecdotes).

### Craft and Structure

Anchor Standard 4: Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.

6.RI.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings.

Anchor Standard 5: Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.

6.RI.5 Analyze how a particular sentence, paragraph, chapter, or section fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the ideas.

Anchor Standard 6: Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

6.RI.6 Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and explain how it is conveyed in the text.

### Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

Anchor Standard 7: Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

6.RI.7 Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.

Anchor Standard 8: Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.

6.RI.8 Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.

Anchor Standard 9: Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

6.RI.9 Compare and contrast one author's presentation of events with that of another (e.g., a memoir written by and a biography on the same person).

### Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

Anchor Standard 10: Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

6.RI.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend literary nonfiction in the grades 6–8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

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Standards are identified by grade, strand, and number (or number and letter, where applicable); for example, **8.RL.1**, means *grade 8, Reading Literature, standard 1*.

**Writing - The following standards offer a focus for instruction in writing to help ensure that students gain adequate mastery of a range of skills and applications. Each year in their writing, students should demonstrate increasing sophistication in all aspects of language use, and they should address increasingly demanding content and sources.**

### Text Types and Purposes

Anchor Standard 1: Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

- 6.W.1 Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
- Introduce claim(s) and organize the reasons and evidence clearly.
  - Support claim(s) with clear reasons and relevant evidence, using credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.
  - Use words, phrases, and clauses to clarify the relationships among claim(s) and reasons.
  - Establish and maintain a formal style.
  - Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the argument presented.

Anchor Standard 2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

- 6.W.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.
- Introduce a topic; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
  - Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
  - Use appropriate transitions to clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
  - Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
  - Establish and maintain a formal style.
  - Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the information or explanation presented.

Anchor Standard 3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

- 6.W.3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.
- Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.
  - Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
  - Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another.
  - Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to convey experiences and events.
  - Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events.

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Standards are identified by grade, strand, and number (or number and letter, where applicable); for example, **8.RL.1**, means *grade 8, Reading Literature, standard 1*.

## Production and Distribution of Writing

Anchor Standard 4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

6.W.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)

Anchor Standard 5: Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.

6.W.5 With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1–3 up to and including grade 6.)

Anchor Standard 6: Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

6.W.6 Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of three pages in a single sitting.

## Research to Build and Present Knowledge

Anchor Standard 7: Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

6.W.7 Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and refocusing the inquiry when appropriate.

Anchor Standard 8: Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.

6.W.8 Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources; assess the credibility of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and providing basic bibliographic information for sources.

Anchor Standard 9: Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

6.W.9 Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

a. Apply grade 6 Reading standards to literature (e.g., “Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres [e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories] in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics”).

b. Apply grade 6 Reading standards to literary nonfiction (e.g., “Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not”).

## Range of Writing

Anchor Standard 10: Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

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Standards are identified by grade, strand, and number (or number and letter, where applicable); for example, **8.RL.1**, means *grade 8, Reading Literature, standard 1*.

6.W.10 Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

**Speaking and Listening - The following standards offer a focus for instruction each year to help ensure that students gain adequate mastery of a range of skills and applications. Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year's grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.**

### Comprehension and Collaboration

Anchor Standard 1: Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

6.SL.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 6 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

- a. Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion.
- b. Follow rules for collegial discussions, set specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed.
- c. Pose and respond to specific questions with elaboration and detail by making comments that contribute to the topic, text, or issue under discussion.
- d. Review the key ideas expressed and demonstrate understanding of multiple perspectives through reflection and paraphrasing.

Anchor Standard 2: Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

6.SL.2 Interpret information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study.

Anchor Standard 3: Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.

6.SL.3 Delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.

### Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

Anchor Standard 4: Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

6.SL.4 Present claims and findings, sequencing ideas logically and using pertinent descriptions, facts, and details to accentuate main ideas or themes; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.

Anchor Standard 5: Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.

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Standards are identified by grade, strand, and number (or number and letter, where applicable); for example, **8.RL.1**, means *grade 8, Reading Literature, standard 1*.

6.SL.5 Include multimedia components (e.g., graphics, images, music, sound) and visual displays in presentations to clarify information.

Anchor Standard 6: Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and communicative tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

6.SL.6 Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate. (See grade 6 Language standards 1 and 3 for specific expectations.)

**Language - The following standards offer a focus for instruction to help ensure that students gain adequate mastery of a range of skills and applications. Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year's grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.**

### Conventions of Standard English

Anchor Standard 1: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

6.L.1 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

- a. Ensure that pronouns are in the proper case (subjective, objective, possessive).
- b. Use intensive pronouns (e.g., myself, ourselves).
- c. Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person.
- d. Recognize and correct vague pronouns (i.e., ones with unclear or ambiguous antecedents).
- e. Recognize variations from standard English in their own and others' writing and speaking, and identify and use strategies to improve expression in conventional language.

Anchor Standard 2: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

6.L.2 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

- a. Use punctuation (commas, parentheses, dashes) to set off nonrestrictive/parenthetical elements.
- b. Spell correctly.

### Knowledge of Language

Anchor Standard 3: Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

6.L.3 Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.

- a. Vary sentence patterns for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style.
- b. Maintain consistency in style and tone.

### Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

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Standards are identified by grade, strand, and number (or number and letter, where applicable); for example, **8.RL.1**, means *grade 8, Reading Literature, standard 1*.



Anchor Standard 4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases by using context clues, analyzing meaningful word parts, and consulting general and specialized reference materials, as appropriate.

6.L.4 Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 6 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

- a. Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
- b. Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., audience, auditory, audible).
- c. Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech.
- d. Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).

Anchor Standard 5: Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships and nuances in word meanings.

6.L.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

- a. Interpret figures of speech (e.g., personification) in context.
- b. Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., cause/effect, part/whole, item/category) to better understand each of the words.
- c. Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions) (e.g., stingy, scrimping, economical, un wasteful, thrifty).

Anchor Standard 6: Acquire and use accurately a range of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when encountering an unknown term important to comprehension or expression.

6.L.6 Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

**Reading for Literacy in History/Social Studies - Because students need grade-level literacy skills to access full content in school, the emphasis in the Common Core is to learn to read and write in ELA and to develop those skills, specific to the content, in all other classes. For grades K-5, the ELA and subject-area literacy standards are integrated; for grades 6-11/12, they are separate but parallel.**

### Key Ideas and Details

Anchor Standard 1: Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

6.RH.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.

Anchor Standard 2: Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

6.RH.2 Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.

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Standards are identified by grade, strand, and number (or number and letter, where applicable); for example, **8.RL.1**, means *grade 8, Reading Literature, standard 1*.

Anchor Standard 3: Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

6.RH.3 Identify key steps in a text's description of a process related to history/social studies (e.g., how a bill becomes law, how interest rates are raised or lowered).

### Craft and Structure

Anchor Standard 4: Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.

6.RH.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies.

Anchor Standard 5: Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.

6.RH.5 Describe how a text presents information (e.g., sequentially, comparatively, causally).

Anchor Standard 6: Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

6.RH.6 Identify aspects of a text that reveal an author's point of view or purpose (e.g., loaded language, inclusion or avoidance of particular facts).

### Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

Anchor Standard 7: Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

6.RH.7 Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.

Anchor Standard 8: Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.

6.RH.8 Distinguish among fact, opinion, and reasoned judgment in a text.

Anchor Standard 9: Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

6.RH.9 Analyze the relationship between a primary and secondary source on the same topic.

### Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

Anchor Standard 10: Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

6.RH.10 By the end of grade 8, read and comprehend history/social studies texts in the grades 6–8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

**Reading for Literacy in Science and Technical Subjects - Because students need grade-level literacy skills to access full content in school, the emphasis in the Common Core is to learn to read and write in ELA and to develop those skills, specific to the content, in all other classes. For grades K-5, the ELA and subject-area literacy standards are integrated; for grades 6-11/12, they are separate but parallel.**

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Standards are identified by grade, strand, and number (or number and letter, where applicable); for example, **8.RL.1**, means *grade 8, Reading Literature, standard 1*.

## Key Ideas and Details

Anchor Standard 1: Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

6.RST.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts.

Anchor Standard 2: Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

6.RST.2 Determine the central ideas or conclusions of a text; provide an accurate summary of the text distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.

Anchor Standard 3: Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

6.RST.3 Follow precisely a multistep procedure when carrying out experiments, taking measurements, or performing technical tasks.

## Craft and Structure

Anchor Standard 4: Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.

6.RST.4 Determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and other domain-specific words and phrases as they are used in a specific scientific or technical context relevant to grades 6–8 texts and topics.

Anchor Standard 5: Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.

6.RST.5 Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole and to an understanding of the topic.

Anchor Standard 6: Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

6.RST.6 Analyze the author's purpose in providing an explanation, describing a procedure, or discussing an experiment in a text.

## Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

Anchor Standard 7: Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

6.RST.7 Integrate quantitative or technical information expressed in words in a text with a version of that information expressed visually (e.g., in a flowchart, diagram, model, graph, or table).

Anchor Standard 8: Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.

6.RST.8 Distinguish among facts, reasoned judgment based on research findings, and speculation in a text.

Anchor Standard 9: Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

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Standards are identified by grade, strand, and number (or number and letter, where applicable); for example, **8.RL.1**, means *grade 8, Reading Literature, standard 1*.

6.RST.9 Compare and contrast the information gained from experiments, simulations, video, or multimedia sources with that gained from reading a text on the same topic.

### Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

Anchor Standard 10 Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

6.RST.10 By the end of grade 8, read and comprehend science/technical texts in the grades 6–8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

**Writing for Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects - Because students need grade-level literacy skills to access full content in school, the emphasis in the Common Core is to learn to read and write in ELA and to develop those skills, specific to the content, in all other classes. For grades K-5, the ELA and subject-area literacy standards are integrated; for grades 6-11/12, they are separate but parallel.**

### Text Types and Purposes

Anchor Standard 1: Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

6.WHST.1 Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.

- a. Introduce claim(s) about a topic or issue, acknowledge and distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.
- b. Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant, accurate data and evidence that demonstrate an understanding of the topic or text, using credible sources.
- c. Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
- d. Establish and maintain a formal style.
- e. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.

Anchor Standard 2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

6.WHST.2 Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/ experiments, or technical processes.

- a. Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories as appropriate to achieving purpose; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
- b. Develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
- c. Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
- d. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
- e. Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone.

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Standards are identified by grade, strand, and number (or number and letter, where applicable); for example, **8.RL.1**, means *grade 8, Reading Literature, standard 1*.

f. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.

Anchor Standard 3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

6.WHST.3 Not applicable as a separate requirement. Students' narrative skills continue to grow in these grades. The Standards require that students be able to incorporate narrative elements effectively into arguments and informative/explanatory texts. In history/social studies, students must be able to incorporate narrative accounts into their analyses of individuals or events of historical import.

### Production and Distribution of Writing

Anchor Standard 4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

6.WHST.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Anchor Standard 5: Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.

6.WHST.5 With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed.

Anchor Standard 6: Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

6.WHST.6 Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and present the relationships between information and ideas clearly and efficiently.

### Research to Build and Present Knowledge

Anchor Standard 7: Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

6.WHST.7 Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.

Anchor Standard 8: Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.

6.WHST.8 Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.

Anchor Standard 9: Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

6.WHST.9 Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

### Range of Writing

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Standards are identified by grade, strand, and number (or number and letter, where applicable); for example, **8.RL.1**, means *grade 8, Reading Literature, standard 1*.

Anchor Standard 10: Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

6.WHST.10 Write routinely over extended time frames (time for reflection and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

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Standards are identified by grade, strand, and number (or number and letter, where applicable); for example, **8.RL.1**, means *grade 8, Reading Literature, standard 1*.

***Standards By Design:***  
***Sixth Grade for Science (2014)***

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# Science (2014)

## Sixth Grade

In the physical sciences, performance expectations at the middle school level focus on students developing understanding of several scientific practices. These include developing and using models, planning and conducting investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematical and computational thinking, and constructing explanations; and to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas. Students are also expected to demonstrate understanding of several of engineering practices including design and evaluation.

The middle school performance expectations in Earth Space Science build on the elementary school ideas and skills and allow middle school students to explain more in-depth phenomena central not only to the earth and space sciences, but to life and physical sciences as well. These performance expectations blend the core ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing useable knowledge to explain ideas across the science disciplines. While the performance expectations shown in middle school earth and space science couple particular practices with specific disciplinary core ideas, instructional decisions should include use of many practices that lead to the performance expectations.

There are four life science disciplinary core ideas in middle school: 1) From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes, 2) Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics, 3) Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits, 4) Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity. The performance expectations in middle school blend the core ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing useable knowledge across the science disciplines. While the performance expectations in middle school life science couple particular practices with specific disciplinary core ideas, instructional decisions should include use of many science and engineering practices integrated in the performance expectations.

By the time students reach middle school they should have had numerous experiences in engineering design. The goal for middle school students is to define problems more precisely, to conduct a more thorough process of choosing the best solution, and to optimize the final design.

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**Clarification statements** supply examples or additional clarification to the performance expectations and **assessment boundary statements** specify the limits to large scale assessment.

For the complete version of these standards and the specific articulation of the Three-Dimensions (Science and Engineering Practices, Discipline Core Ideas and Crosscutting Concepts), please review the grade level documents at [www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=1577](http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=1577).



## MS-PS3 Energy

MS-PS3-3 Apply scientific principles to design, construct, and test a device that either minimizes or maximizes thermal energy transfer.

Clarification Statement: Examples of devices could include an insulated box, a solar cooker, and a Styrofoam cup.

Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include calculating the total amount of thermal energy transferred.

MS-PS3-4 Plan an investigation to determine the relationships among the energy transferred, the type of matter, the mass, and the change in the average kinetic energy of the particles as measured by the temperature of the sample.

Clarification Statement: Examples of experiments could include comparing final water temperatures after different masses of ice melted in the same volume of water with the same initial temperature, the temperature change of samples of different materials with the same mass as they cool or heat in the environment, or the same material with different masses when a specific amount of energy is added.

Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include calculating the total amount of thermal energy transferred.

MS-PS3-5 Construct, use, and present arguments to support the claim that when the kinetic energy of an object changes, energy is transferred to or from the object.

Clarification Statement: Examples of empirical evidence used in arguments could include an inventory or other representation of the energy before and after the transfer in the form of temperature changes or motion of object.

Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include calculations of energy.

## MS-LS1 From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

MS-LS1-1 Conduct an investigation to provide evidence that living things are made of cells; either one cell or many different numbers and types of cells.

Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on developing evidence that living things are made of cells, distinguishing between living and non-living things, and understanding that living things may be made of one cell or many and varied cells.

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MS-LS1-2 Develop and use a model to describe the function of a cell as a whole and ways parts of cells contribute to the function.

Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the cell functioning as a whole system and the primary role of identified parts of the cell, specifically the nucleus, chloroplasts, mitochondria, cell membrane, and cell wall.

Assessment Boundary: Assessment of organelle structure/function relationships is limited to the cell wall and cell membrane. Assessment of the function of the other organelles is limited to their relationship to the whole cell. Assessment does not include the biochemical function of cells or cell parts.

MS-LS1-3 Use argument supported by evidence for how the body is a system of interacting subsystems composed of groups of cells.

Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the conceptual understanding that cells form tissues and tissues form organs specialized for particular body functions. Examples could include the interaction of subsystems within a system and the normal functioning of those systems.

Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include the mechanism of one body system independent of others. Assessment is limited to the circulatory, excretory, digestive, respiratory, muscular, and nervous systems.

MS-LS1-4 Use argument based on empirical evidence and scientific reasoning to support an explanation for how characteristic animal behaviors and specialized plant structures affect the probability of successful reproduction of animals and plants respectively.

Clarification Statement: Examples of behaviors that affect the probability of animal reproduction could include nest building to protect young from cold, herding of animals to protect young from predators, and vocalization of animals and colorful plumage to attract mates for breeding. Examples of animal behaviors that affect the probability of plant reproduction could include transferring pollen or seeds, and creating conditions for seed germination and growth. Examples of plant structures could include bright flowers attracting butterflies that transfer pollen, flower nectar and odors that attract insects that transfer pollen, and hard shells on nuts that squirrels bury.

MS-LS1-5 Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence for how environmental and genetic factors influence the growth of organisms.

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Clarification Statement: Examples of local environmental conditions could include availability of food, light, space, and water. Examples of genetic factors could include large breed cattle and species of grass affecting growth of organisms. Examples of evidence could include drought decreasing plant growth, fertilizer increasing plant growth, different varieties of plant seeds growing at different rates in different conditions, and fish growing larger in large ponds than they do in small ponds.

Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include genetic mechanisms, gene regulation, or biochemical processes.

MS-LS1-8 Gather and synthesize information that sensory receptors respond to stimuli by sending messages to the brain for immediate behavior or storage as memories.

Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include mechanisms for the transmission of this information.

### MS-LS3 Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits

MS-LS3-2 Develop and use a model to describe why asexual reproduction results in offspring with identical genetic information and sexual reproduction results in offspring with genetic variation.

Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on using models such as Punnett squares, diagrams, and simulations to describe the cause and effect relationship of gene transmission from parent(s) to offspring and resulting genetic variation.

### MS-ESS2 Earth's Systems

MS-ESS2-4 Develop a model to describe the cycling of water through Earth's systems driven by energy from the sun and the force of gravity.

Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the ways water changes its state as it moves through the multiple pathways of the hydrologic cycle. Examples of models can be conceptual or physical.

Assessment Boundary: A quantitative understanding of the latent heats of vaporization and fusion is not assessed.

MS-ESS2-5 Collect data to provide evidence for how the motions and complex interactions of air masses results in changes in weather conditions.

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Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on how air masses flow from regions of high pressure to low pressure, causing weather (defined by temperature, pressure, humidity, precipitation, and wind) at a fixed location to change over time, and how sudden changes in weather can result when different air masses collide. Emphasis is on how weather can be predicted within probabilistic ranges. Examples of data can be provided to students (such as weather maps, diagrams, and visualizations) or obtained through laboratory experiments (such as with condensation).

Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include recalling the names of cloud types or weather symbols used on weather maps or the reported diagrams from weather stations.

MS-ESS2-6 Develop and use a model to describe how unequal heating and rotation of the Earth cause patterns of atmospheric and oceanic circulation that determine regional climates.

Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on how patterns vary by latitude, altitude, and geographic land distribution. Emphasis of atmospheric circulation is on the sunlight-driven latitudinal banding, the Coriolis effect, and resulting prevailing winds; emphasis of ocean circulation is on the transfer of heat by the global ocean convection cycle, which is constrained by the Coriolis effect and the outlines of continents. Examples of models can be diagrams, maps and globes, or digital representations.

Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include the dynamics of the Coriolis effect.

### MS-ESS3 Earth and Human Activity

MS-ESS3-3 Apply scientific principles to design a method for monitoring and minimizing a human impact on the environment.

Clarification Statement: Examples of the design process include examining human environmental impacts, assessing the kinds of solutions that are feasible, and designing and evaluating solutions that could reduce that impact. Examples of human impacts can include water usage (such as the withdrawal of water from streams and aquifers or the construction of dams and levees), land usage (such as urban development, agriculture, or the removal of wetlands), and pollution (such as of the air, water, or land).

MS-ESS3-5 Ask questions to clarify evidence of the factors that have caused the rise in global temperatures over the past century.

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Clarification Statement: Examples of factors include human activities (such as fossil fuel combustion, cement production, and agricultural activity) and natural processes (such as changes in incoming solar radiation or volcanic activity). Examples of evidence can include tables, graphs, and maps of global and regional temperatures, atmospheric levels of gases such as carbon dioxide and methane, and the rates of human activities. Emphasis is on the major role that human activities play in causing the rise in global temperatures.

## MS-ETS1 Engineering Design

MS-ETS1-1 Define the criteria and constraints of a design problem with sufficient precision to ensure a successful solution, taking into account relevant scientific principles and potential impacts on people and the natural environment that may limit possible solutions.

MS-ETS1-2 Evaluate competing design solutions using a systematic process to determine how well they meet the criteria and constraints of the problem.

MS-ETS1-3 Analyze data from tests to determine similarities and differences among several design solutions to identify the best characteristics of each that can be combined into a new solution to better meet the criteria for success.

MS-ETS1-4 Develop a model to generate data for iterative testing and modification of a proposed object, tool, or process such that an optimal design can be achieved.

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**Clarification statements** supply examples or additional clarification to the performance expectations and **assessment boundary statements** specify the limits to large scale assessment.

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***Standards By Design:***  
***Sixth Grade for Social Sciences (2011)***

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# Social Sciences (2011)

## Sixth Grade

It is essential that these standards be addressed in contexts that promote Social Science Analysis, civic responsibility, understanding global relationships, enhanced communication, making connections between the past, present and future, and the ability to evaluate historical and contemporary issues. Focus (to include but not limited to): World History & Geography--Western Hemisphere

### Historical Knowledge

Relate significant events and eras in local, state, United States, and world history to past and present issues and developments.

- 6.1. Determine and explain the historical context of key people, cultures, products, events, and ideas over time including the examination of different perspectives from people involved including, but not limited to, Aztec, Maya, Inca, Inuit, early Native American cultures of North America, major explorers, colonizers of countries in the Western Hemisphere, and the Columbian Exchange.
- 6.2. Identify examples of the social, political, cultural, and economic development in key areas of the Western Hemisphere.
- 6.3. Describe the rise; the political, technological, and cultural achievements; and the decline of ancient civilizations in Europe, Asia, and Africa prior to the Roman Empire.

### Historical Thinking

Use multiple perspectives, primary sources, context, and reasoning skills to understand the significance of events, people, ideas and institutions.

- 6.4. Explain how different cultures in the Western Hemisphere record history.
- 6.5. Critique information to determine if it is sufficient to answer historical questions.
- 6.6. Create and compare timelines that identify major people, events and developments in the history of individual civilizations and/or countries that comprise the Americas.
- 6.7. Define and use the terms “decade,” “century,” and “millennium,” and compare alternative ways that historical periods and eras are designated by identifying the organizing principles upon which each is based.
- 6.8. Analyze cause-and-effect relationships, including the importance of individuals, ideas, human interests and beliefs.
- 6.9. Differentiate between fact and interpretation in historical accounts and explain the meaning of historical passages by identifying who was involved, what happened, where it happened, and relating them to outcomes that followed and gaps in the historical record.

6.10. Identify issues related to a historical event in the Americas and give basic arguments for and against that issue utilizing the perspectives, interests and values of those involved.

## **Geography**

Understand and use geographic skills and concepts to interpret contemporary and historical issues.

6.11. Distinguish among different types of maps and use them to analyze an issue in the Western Hemisphere.

6.12 Collect and analyze data to describe regions of the Western Hemisphere.

6.13. Classify and analyze the types of connections between places in the Western Hemisphere.

6.14. Identify physical features of the Western Hemisphere and explain their effects on people and events.

6.15. Explain how people have adapted to or changed the physical environment in the Western Hemisphere.

6.16. Explain how technological developments, societal decisions, and personal practices influence sustainability in the Western Hemisphere.

## **Civics and Government**

Understand and apply knowledge about governmental and political systems, and the rights and responsibilities of citizens.

6.17. Compare and contrast early forms of government via the study of early civilizations (tribal, monarchy, democracy, theocracy, and oligarchy) in the Western Hemisphere.

6.18. Describe current forms of government in countries in the Western Hemisphere.

## **Economics/Financial Literacy**

Understand economic concepts and principles and how available resources are allocated in a market and other economies. Understand and apply knowledge and skills to manage one's financial resources effectively for lifetime financial security.

6.19. Describe the role and function of prices in the economy.

## **Social Science Analysis**

Design and implement strategies to research for reliable information, analyze issues, explain perspectives, and resolve issues using the social sciences.



6.20. Critique information to determine if it is sufficient to answer questions.

6.21. Clarify key aspects of an event, issue, or problem through inquiry and research.

6.22. Gather, interpret, document, and use information from multiple sources, distinguishing facts from opinions and recognizing points of view.

6.23. Interpret documents and data from multiple primary and secondary sources (art, artifacts, eyewitness accounts, letters and diaries, real or simulated historical sites, charts, graphs, diagrams, written texts).