

1st Grade Science Units -

High Priority

Parts identified as high priority are seen as important to teach. These units either strongly tie into the science standards at this particular grade level or build crucial vocabulary or understanding. These lessons should be taught.

Medium Priority

Parts identified as medium priority are important to teach, but parts could be modified if time is an issue. These parts of the investigation might have important pieces that connect with other parts or reading that helps to build understanding.

Low Priority

Parts identified as low priority are able to be skipped, while students won't be missing out on important standards or content. If time permits, these are the "fun" activities and build on the content being taught, but aren't crucial.

Air and Weather

In this unit, there are a lot of activities that are important for basic exposure to science for 1st graders. In many of the *parts*, students are asked to go outside to make observations with their senses. They are also asked to build and construct things in order to make predictions and test their theories. Although it might seem redundant, having students construct these simple weather tools helps build a deeper understanding of the overall concept of atmosphere, weather and changes in the sky.

In 1st grade, the main focus for Earth Science is to use observations to describe patterns in the natural world to answer scientific questions (**K-ESS2-1**); and looking at patterns and systems to see how parts work together (**K-ESS2-2**). Although these seem to be a repeat of kindergarten standards, they really are the building block to other units students will encounter K-5.

It is recommended to do this kit first as there are many activities that are important to be done in fall as the weather might be better to conduct experiments outside during better weather.

Sound and Light

In this unit, there are a lot of activities that are important for the basic exposure to science for 1st graders. There are many activities where students develop an understanding of how to observe and manipulate sound and light, a topic that they will come back to at 4th grade. There are fewer lessons in this kit, and some could be difficult to conduct due to the time of year due to the need of sun. There could be a nice connection between sound, sound waves and pitch and your school's music teacher. The music teacher could incorporate a couple of lessons during this particular Investigation to reinforce this concept and specific vocabulary.