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#### **Unit Summary**

#### How can we use waves to gather and transmit information?

In this unit of study, students use a model of waves to describe patterns of waves in terms of amplitude and wavelength and to show that waves can cause objects to move. The crosscutting concepts of *patterns; interdependence of science, engineering, and technology; and influence of engineering, technology, and science on society and the natural world are called out as organizing concepts for these disciplinary core ideas. Students demonstrate grade-appropriate proficiency in developing and using models, planning and carrying out investigations, and constructing explanations, and designing solutions. Students are also expected to use these practices to demonstrate their understanding of the core ideas.* 

#### Student Learning Objectives

**Develop a model of waves to describe patterns in terms of amplitude and wavelength and that waves can cause objects to move.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of models could include diagrams, analogies, and physical models using wire to illustrate wavelength and amplitude of waves.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include interference effects, electromagnetic waves, non-periodic waves, or quantitative models of amplitude and wavelength.] (4-PS4-1)

**Generate and compare multiple solutions that use patterns to transfer information.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of solutions could include drums sending coded information through sound waves, using a grid of 1's and 0's representing black and white to send information about a picture, and using Morse code to send text.] (4-PS4-3)

Generate and compare multiple possible solutions to a problem based on how well each is likely to meet the criteria and constraints of the problem. (<u>3-5-EST-1-2</u>)

Plan and carry out fair tests in which variables are controlled and failure points are considered to identify aspects of a model or prototype that can be improved. (<u>3-5-ETS1-3</u>)

4-PS4-1	Develop a model of waves to describe patterns in terms of amplitude and wavelength and that waves can cause objects to move
4-PS4-3	Generate and compare multiple solutions that use patterns to transfer information
3-5-EST-1-2	Generate and compare multiple possible solutions to a problem based on how well each is likely to meet the criteria and constraints of the problem
3-5-ETS1-3	Plan and carry out fair tests in which variables are controlled and failure points are considered to identify aspects of a model or prototype that can be improved
ETS1.A	Possible solutions to a problem are limited by available materials and resources
ETS1.B	Tests are often designed to identify failure points or difficulties, which suggest the elements of the design that need to be improved
ETS1.C	Different solutions need to be tested in order to determine which of them best solves the problem, given the criteria and the constraints
PS4.A	Waves, which are regular patterns of motion, can be made in water by disturbing the surface
PS4.C	Digitized information can be transmitted over long distances without significant degradation

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Quick Links			
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## Enduring Understandings

- Energy can be transmitted from a source as waves.
- Waves carry energy from one place to another
- Waves have different properties and relationships..
- The absorption and reflection of light waves by various materials result in the human perception of

## **Essential Questions**

- How are wavelength, frequency and wave speed related?
- How do technology and waves interact?
- What do waves look like in the air, water, etc..

Unit Sequence			
Part A: If a beach ball lands in the surf, beyond the breakers, what will happen to it?			
Concepts	Formative Assessments		
<ul> <li>Science findings are based on recognizing patterns.</li> </ul>	Students who understand the concepts can:		
<ul> <li>Similarities and differences in patterns can be used to sort and classify natural phenomena.</li> </ul>	• Sort and classify natural phenomena using similarities and differences in patterns.		
• Waves, which are regular patterns of motion, can be made in water by disturbing the surface.	• Develop a model using an analogy, example, or abstract representation to describe a scientific principle.		
• When waves move across the surface of deep water, the water goes up and down in place; there is no net motion in the direction of the wave except when the water meets a beach.	• Develop a model (e.g., diagram, analogy, or physical model) of waves to describe patterns in terms of amplitude and wavelength, and that waves can cause objects to move. (Assessment does not include interference effects,		
• Waves of the same type can differ in amplitude (height of the wave) and wavelength (spacing between wave peaks)	electromagnetic waves, non-periodic waves, or quantitative models of amplitude and wavelength).		

Unit Sequence			
Part B: Which team can design a way to use patterns to communicate with someone across the room?			
Concepts	Formative Assessments		
<ul> <li>Similarities and differences in patterns can be used to sort and classify designed products.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Students who understand the concepts can:</li> <li>Sort and classify designed products using similarities and</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>Knowledge of relevant scientific concepts and research findings is important in anging original</li> </ul>	differences in patterns.		
<ul> <li>findings is important in engineering.</li> <li>Engineers improve existing technologies or develop new ones to increase their benefits, decrease known risks, and</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Generate and compare multiple solutions to a problem based on how well they meet the criteria and constraints of the design solution.</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>meet societal demands.</li> <li>Digitized information can be transmitted over long distances without significant degradation. High-tech</li> </ul>	• Generate and compare multiple possible solutions to a problem based on how well each is likely to meet the criteria and constraints of the problem.		
devices, such as computers or cell phones, can receive and decode information—that is, convert it from digitized form to voice and vice versa.	• Generate and compare multiple solutions that use patterns to transfer information. Examples of solutions could include:		
<ul> <li>Different solutions need to be tested in order to determine which of them best solve the problem, given the criteria and the constraints.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Drums sending coded information through sound waves;</li> </ul>		
Research on a problem should be carried out before     beginning to design a solution. Testing a solution involves	<ul> <li>Using a grid of ones and zeroes representing black and white to send</li> </ul>		
beginning to design a solution. Testing a solution involves investigating how well it performs under a range of likely	$\checkmark$ information about a picture;		
conditions.	✓ Using Morse code to send text.		
<ul> <li>At whatever stage, communicating with peers about proposed solutions is an important part of the design process, and shared ideas can lead to improved designs.</li> </ul>	• Plan and conduct an investigation collaboratively to produce data that can serve as the basis for evidence, using fair tests in which variables are controlled and the		
Tests are often designed to identify failure points or	number of trials considered.		

difficulties, which suggest the elements of the design that need to be improved.	<ul> <li>Plan and carry out fair tests in which variables are controlled and failure points are considered to identify</li> </ul>
	aspects of a model or prototype that can be improved.

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## What It Looks Like in the Classroom

In this unit of study, students plan and carry out investigations, analyze and interpret data, and construct explanations. They also develop and use models to describe patterns of waves in terms of amplitude and wavelength and to show that waves can cause objects to move.

Waves, which are regular patterns of motion, can differ in amplitude (height of the wave) and wavelength (spacing between wave peaks). Students can model the properties of waves by disturbing the surface of water in a variety of pans and buckets. Students should make observations as they strike the surface of the water with small and large objects, such as marbles and rocks. In addition, smaller pans can be tilted in different directions in order to observe the effect on the wave patterns created on the surface of the water. Students should observe and describe a number of similarities and differences in the wave patterns created, including the following:

- When an object hits the surface of water, waves move across the surface.
- Waves move up and down across the surface of the water away from the point of contact.
- Waves on the surface of the water move away from the point of contact in increasingly larger circles.
- When waves hit another surface, the waves change direction and move away from the surface with which they come into contact.
- The height of the wave (amplitude) and the distance between the peaks of waves (wavelength) varies depending upon the intensity of the disturbance, and/or the size (mass, volume) of the object disturbing the surface of the water.

When describing the properties of waves, students should also develop a model using drawings, diagrams, or physical models (such as a slinky or jump rope) to show the basic properties of waves (amplitude and wavelength). In addition, the class should discuss other real-world examples of waves, including sound and light waves, using understandings developed in prior units of study.

To begin the engineering design process, students are challenged to design a way to use patterns to transfer information. This process should include the following steps:

• As a class, brainstorm a list of ways in which patterns have been used in the past to communicate over distance. Some examples include the use of smoke signals, drums, and Morse code on a telegraph.

- Small groups collaboratively conduct research to determine other possible ways of communicating using patterns over distances.
- As a class, determine criteria and possible constraints on the design solutions.
  - Criteria might include that groups must communicate information using patterns, the design solution must communicate over a predetermined distance, and groups must be able to describe how patterns were used in the design to communicate over a distance.
  - Possible constraints might include materials available to build/create a device and the amount of time available to design and build.
- Small groups work collaboratively to design and build a device or design a process for communicating information over a distance. Some examples could include:
  - Drums sending coded information through sound waves.
  - Use a flashlight to convey information using a pattern of on and off.
  - Use Morse code to send information.
  - Build an instrument with a box and rubber bands of varying sizes that can be plucked in a pattern to communicate information.
  - Use musical patterns on a xylophone or tuning forks to convey information.
  - Use string and cups to build a simple "phone" to send information.
- After small groups finish designing and building, they should put together a presentation that includes a written description/explanation of how patterns are used to communicate information. They can also include pictures, video or audio recordings, and/or models to support their explanation.
- Each group presents their design solution to the class. After observing each design solution, students should classify each based on the type or types of patterns used to communicate (e.g., sound, light, or both).
- Students investigate how well the solutions perform under a range of likely conditions (e.g., environmental noise or light, increases in distance). This may involve additional research, planning and conducting multiple investigations to produce data, and collecting and analyzing additional data that can be used as evidence to support conclusions. All tests that are

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planned and carried out should be fair tests in which variables are controlled and failure points are considered in order to identify elements of the design solution that do and do not meet criteria and constraints.

• Students compare the solutions, determining which can be used to successfully communicate information over a distance using patterns. Students should determine how well each design solution meets criteria, using data as evidence to support their thinking.

Throughout this process, communicating with peers is important, and can lead to better designs. After completing the engineering design process, students should discuss ways in which we use patterns in today's technology to communicate over long distances and how engineers have improved existing technologies over time in order to increase benefits, decrease known risks, and meet societal demands.

## Integration of engineering-

Engineering design is an integral part of this unit of study. Students are expected to research a problem and communicate proposed solutions to others; define a simple design problem including specified criteria for success and constraints on materials time, or cost; and plan and carry out fair tests in which variables are controlled and failure points are considered to identify aspects of the design solution that can be improved. This process is outlined in greater detail in the previous section.

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#### **Connecting with English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics**

#### English Language Arts/Literacy

To support integration of English language arts into this unit, students conduct short research projects, using both print and digital sources, to build their understanding of wave properties and of the use of waves to communicate over a distance. Students should take notes, categorize information collected, and document a list of the sources used. Using the information they collect during research, as well as information from their experiences with waves, sound, and light, students integrate the information and use it to design a device or process that can be used to communicate over a distance using patterns. As students create presentations that detail how their design solutions can be used to communicate, they should use details and examples from both their research and experiences to explain how patterns are used in their design to communicate over a distance over a distance. They can include audio or video recordings and visual displays to enhance their presentations.

#### Mathematics

To support the integration of the CCSS for mathematics into this unit of study, students should have opportunities to draw points, lines, line segments, rays, angles, and perpendicular and parallel lines, and identify these in two-dimensional drawings as they identify rays and angles in drawings of the ways in which waves move. Students should also have opportunities to use the four operations to solve problems. Students can analyze constraints on materials, time, or cost to draw implications for design solutions. For example, if a design calls for 20 screws and screws are sold in boxes of 150, how many copies of the design could be made?

As students represent and solve word problems, such as these, they reason abstractly and quantitatively and model with mathematics. As students create models of waves and engage in engineering design, they have opportunities to use tools strategically while measuring, drawing, and building.

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#### **Modifications**

Teacher Note: Teachers identify the modifications that they will use in the unit. The unneeded modifications can then be deleted from the list.

- Restructure lesson using UDL principals (<u>http://www.cast.org/our-work/about-udl.html#.VXmoXcfD\_UA</u>)
- Structure lessons around questions that are authentic, relate to students' interests, social/family background and knowledge of their community.
- Provide students with multiple choices for how they can represent their understandings (e.g. multisensory techniquesauditory/visual aids; pictures, illustrations, graphs, charts, data tables, multimedia, modeling).
- Provide opportunities for students to connect with people of similar backgrounds (e.g. conversations via digital tool such as SKYPE, experts from the community helping with a project, journal articles, and biographies).
- Provide multiple grouping opportunities for students to share their ideas and to encourage work among various backgrounds and cultures (e.g. multiple representation and multimodal experiences).
- Engage students with a variety of Science and Engineering practices to provide students with multiple entry points and multiple ways to demonstrate their understandings.
- Use project-based science learning to connect science with observable phenomena.
- Structure the learning around explaining or solving a social or community-based issue.
- Provide ELL students with multiple literacy strategies.
- Collaborate with after-school programs or clubs to extend learning opportunities.

Research on Student Learning	
N/A	

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#### **Prior Learning**

By the end of Grade 1, students know that:

• People also use a variety of devices to communicate (send and receive information) over long distances.

By the end of Grade 2, students know that:

- A situation that people want to change or create can be approached as a problem to be solved through engineering.
- Asking questions, making observations, and gathering information are helpful in thinking about problems.
- Before beginning to design a solution it is important to clearly understand the problem.
- Designs can be conveyed through sketches, drawings, or physical models. These representations are useful in communicating ideas for a problem's solutions to other people.
- Because there is always more than one possible solution to a problem, it is useful to compare and test designs.

By the end of Grade 3, students know that:

- Each force acts on one particular object and has both strength and a direction. An object at rest typically has multiple forces acting on it, but they add to give zero net force on the object. Forces that do not sum to zero can cause changes in the object's speed or direction of motion. (Boundary: Qualitative and conceptual, but not quantitative, addition of forces is used at this level).
- The patterns of an object's motion in various situations can be observed and measured; when that past motion exhibits a regular pattern, future motion can be predicted from it. (Boundary: Technical terms, such as magnitude, velocity, momentum, and vector quantity, are not introduced at this level, but the concept that some quantities need both size and direction to be described is developed.)

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#### **Future Learning**

In middle school, students will know that:

- A simple wave has a repeating pattern with a specific wavelength, frequency, and amplitude.
- A sound wave needs a medium through which it is transmitted.
- Digitized signals (sent as wave impulses) are a more reliable way to encode and transmit information.
- A solution needs to be tested, and then modified on the basis of the test results, in order to improve it.
- There are systematic processes for evaluating solutions with respect to how well they meet the criteria and constraints of a problem.
- Sometimes parts of different solutions can be combined to create a solution that is better than any of its predecessors.
- Models of all kinds are important for testing solutions.
- Although one design may not perform the best across all tests, identifying the characteristics of the design that performed the best in each test can provide useful information for the redesign process— that is, some of those characteristics may be incorporated into the new design.
- The iterative process of testing the most promising solutions and modifying what is proposed on the basis of the test results leads to greater refinement and ultimately to an optimal solution.

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#### **Connections to Other Units**

In Unit 5, Transfer of Energy; Unit 6, Force and Motion; and Unit 7, Using Engineering Design with Force and Motion Systems, students work with concepts related to force, motion, energy, and energy transfer.

Students understand that:

- Energy can be moved from place to place by moving objects or through sound, light, or electric currents. Energy is present whenever there are moving objects, sound, light, or heat. When objects collide, energy can be transferred from one object to another, thereby changing the objects' motion. In such collisions, some energy is typically also transferred to the surrounding air; as a result, the air gets heated and sound is produced.
- Light also transfers energy from place to place.
- Energy can also be transferred from place to place by electric currents, which can then be used locally to produce motion, sound, heat, or light. The currents may have been produced to begin with by transforming the energy of motion into electrical energy.

In Unit 2, Earth Processes, and Unit 7, Using Engineering Design with Force and Motion Systems, students engage in engineering design. Students understand that:

- Possible solutions to a problem are limited by available materials and resources (constraints). The success of a designed solution is determined by considering the desired features of a solution (criteria).
- Different proposals for solutions can be compared on the basis of how well each one meets the specified criteria for success or how well each takes the constraints into account.
- Research on a problem should be carried out before beginning to design a solution. Solutions should be tested to investigate how well they perform under a range of likely conditions.
- At whatever stage, communicating with peers about proposed solutions is an important part of the design process, and shared ideas can lead to improved designs.
- Tests are often designed to identify failure points or difficulties, which suggest the elements of the design that need to be improved.
- Different solutions need to be tested in order to determine which of them best solve the problem, given the criteria and the constraints.

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#### Sample of Open Education Resources

The "<u>What it Looks Like in the Classroom</u>" section of this document describes several student sense-making and engineering tasks.

The <u>Utah Education Network</u> has created several resources for fourth grade science teachers.

<u>Michigan NGSS Moodle</u>: The purpose of this website to provide K-5 Science teachers with resources, lessons, and activities based on the NGSS which were created by teachers in our region.

**Teacher Professional Learning Resources** 

# NSTA Web Seminar: NGSS Core Ideas: Waves and Their Applications in Technologies for Information Transfer, September 24, 2013

Ramon Lopez from the University of Texas at Arlington is the presenter of this web seminar. The program featured strategies for teaching about physical science concepts that answer questions such as "How are waves used to transfer energy and information?" and "How are instruments that transmit and detect waves used to extend human senses?"

The web seminar is available at: <u>http://learningcenter.nsta.org/resource/?id=10.2505/9/WSNGSS13\_Oct22</u>

## NSTA Web Seminar: Teaching NGSS in K-5: Making Meaning through Discourse

Zembal-Saul, Starr, and Renfrew gave context to the *NGSS* specifically for K-5 teachers, discussing three-dimensional learning, performance expectations, and background information on the *NGSS* framework for K-5. The presenters also gave a number of examples and tips on how to approach *NGSS* with students, and took participants' questions. The web seminar ended with the presentation of a number of recommended NSTA resources for participants to explore.

The web seminar is available at: http://learningcenter.nsta.org/products/symposia\_seminars/NGSS/webseminar50.aspx

## NSTA Web Seminar: Teaching NGSS in Elementary School—Fourth Grade

The web seminar began with an introduction to NGSS, its framework for K-12 science education, and its cross-cutting concepts and core ideas by NSTA's Ted Willard. Mary Starr and Kathy Renfrew began with a look into disciplinary core ideas, using the example of energy, and how they apply to the fourth grade in terms of performance expectations and an approach to science and engineering practices. Kathy also brought a special guest with her, Tracy Lavallee, a teacher from Vermont

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featured in the web seminar's videos. Using two videos taken from Tracy's fourth grade classroom, lesson plan ideas and approaches were discussed and teachers were able to share their thoughts and approaches on the classroom activities. A number of NSTA Learning Center tools and resources were shared as well a number of website links for further investigation. This web seminar is available at: https://learningcenter.nsta.org/products/symposia\_seminars/NGSS/webseminar47.aspx.

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#### Appendix A: NGSS and Foundations for the Unit

**Develop a model of waves to describe patterns in terms of amplitude and wavelength and that waves can cause objects to move.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of models could include diagrams, analogies, and physical models using wire to illustrate wavelength and amplitude of waves.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include interference effects, electromagnetic waves, non-periodic waves, or quantitative models of amplitude and wavelength.] (4-PS4-1)

**Generate and compare multiple solutions that use patterns to transfer information.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of solutions could include drums sending coded information through sound waves, using a grid of 1's and 0's representing black and white to send information about a picture, and using Morse code to send text.] (4-PS4-3)

Generate and compare multiple possible solutions to a problem based on how well each is likely to meet the criteria and constraints of the problem. (<u>3-5-EST-1-2</u>)

Plan and carry out fair tests in which variables are controlled and failure points are considered to identify aspects of a model or prototype that can be improved. (<u>3-5-ETS-1-3</u>)

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document <u>A Framework for</u> K-12 Science Education:			
Science and Engineering Practices	Disciplinary Core Ideas	Crosscutting Concepts	
Developing and Using Models	PS4.A: Wave Properties	Patterns	
• Develop a model using an analogy, example, or abstract representation to describe a scientific principle. (4- PS4-1)	• Waves, which are regular patterns of motion, can be made in water by disturbing the surface. When waves move across the surface of deep	• Similarities and differences in patterns can be used to sort, classify, and analyze simple rates of change for natural phenomena. (4-PS4-1)	
Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions	water, the water goes up and down in place; there is no net motion in the direction of the wave except when	Similarities and differences in patterns can be used to sort and	
Generate and compare multiple solutions to a problem based on how well they meet the criteria and	the water meets a beach. (Note: This grade band endpoint was moved from K–2.) (4-PS4-1)	classify designed products. (4-PS4- 3)	

<ul> <li>constraints of the design solution. (4-PS4-3)</li> <li>Generate and compare multiple solutions to a problem based on how well they meet the criteria and constraints of the design problem. (3-CETC4-2)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Waves of the same type can differ in amplitude (height of the wave) and wavelength (spacing between wave peaks). (4-PS4-1)</li> <li>PS4.C: Information Technologies and Instrumentation</li> </ul>	Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science Interdependence of Science, Engineering, and Technology
5-ETS1-2) Connections to Nature of Science Scientific Knowledge is Based on Empirical Evidence	<ul> <li>Digitized information can be transmitted over long distances without significant degradation. High- tech devices, such as computers or cell phones, can receive and decode information—convert it from digitized form to voice—and vice versa. (4- PS4-3)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Knowledge of relevant scientific concepts and research findings is important in engineering. (4-PS4-3)</li> <li>Influence of Science, Engineering, and Technology on Society and the Natural World</li> <li>Engineers improve existing</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Science findings are based on recognizing patterns. (4-PS4-1)</li> </ul>	ETS1.C: Optimizing The Design Solution	technologies or develop new ones to increase their benefits, decrease
<ul> <li>Planning and Carrying Out Investigations</li> <li>Plan and conduct an investigation collaboratively to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence,</li> </ul>	• Different solutions need to be tested in order to determine which of them best solves the problem, given the criteria and the constraints. (secondary to 4-PS4-3)	known risks, and meet societal demands. (3-5-ETS1-2)
using fair tests in which variables are controlled and the number of trials	ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions	
considered. (3-5-ETS1-3)	<ul> <li>Research on a problem should be carried out before beginning to design a solution. Testing a solution involves investigating how well it performs under a range of likely</li> </ul>	

conditions. (3-5-ETS1-2)	
• At whatever stage, communicating with peers about proposed solutions is an important part of the design process, and shared ideas can lead to improved designs. (3-5-ETS1-2)	
• Tests are often designed to identify failure points or difficulties, which suggest the elements of the design that need to be improved. (3-5-ETS1-3)	
ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution	
• Different solutions need to be tested in order to determine which of them best solves the problem, given the criteria and the constraints. (3-5- ETS1-3)	

English Language Arts	Mathematics
Integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably. (4-PS4-3)	Reason abstractly and quantitatively. (3-5-ETS1-2),(3-5-ETS1-3) <b>MP.2</b>
<b>RI.4.9</b> Add audio recordings and visual displays to presentations	Model with mathematics. (4-PS4-2),(3-5-ETS1-2),(3-5-ETS1-3) <b>MP.4</b>
when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or themes. (4-PS4-1) SL.4.5	Use appropriate tools strategically. (3-5-ETS1-2),(3-5-ETS1-3) <b>MP.5</b>
Draw on information from multiple print or digital sources, demonstrating the ability to locate an answer to a question	Operations and Algebraic Thinking (3-ETS1-2) 3-5.OA
quickly or to solve a problem efficiently. (3-5-ETS1-2) <b>RI.5.1</b>	Draw points, lines, line segments, rays, angles (right, acute,
Integrate information from several texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably. (3-5-ETS1-2) <b>RI.5.9</b>	obtuse), and perpendicular and parallel lines. Identify these in two-dimensional figures. (4-PS4-2) <b>4.G.A.1</b>
Conduct short research projects that use several sources to build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic. (3-5-ETS1-3) <b>W.5.7</b>	
Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; summarize or paraphrase information in notes and finished work, and provide a list of sources. (3-5-ETS1-3) <b>W.5.8</b>	
Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. (3-5-ETS1-3) <b>W.5.9</b>	

Common Vocabulary		
Light reflection	Light emission	
Surface	Light refraction	
Water wave	Net motion	
Absorb	Transmit	
Properties	Wave	
Sound wave	Wavelength	
Amplitude	Wave peak	
Dependent		