### **NGSS OVERVIEW**

### FIELDS AND INTERACTIONS

**Performance Expectation MS-PS2-3:** Ask questions about data to determine the factors that affect the strength of electric and magnetic forces.

**Performance Expectation MS-PS2-4:** Construct and present arguments using evidence to support the claim that gravitational interactions are attractive and depend on the masses of interacting objects.

**Performance Expectation MS-PS2-5:** Conduct an investigation and evaluate the experimental design to provide evidence that fields exist between objects exerting forces on each other even though the objects are not in contact.

**Performance Expectation MS-PS3-2:** Develop a model to describe that when the arrangement of objects interacting at a distance changes, different amounts of potential energy are stored in the system.

**Performance Expectation 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.

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

**Performance Expectation 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.

**Performance Expectation 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.

Activity Description	Disciplinary Core Ideas	Science and Engineering Practices	Crosscutting Concepts	Common Core State Standards
1. <b>Problem Solving: Save the</b> <b>Astronaut!</b> Students are introduced to the process of engineering with a scenario that engages them in solving a simple problem. The activity elicits and builds on students' ideas about how to define a problem and develop a successful solution. The process of solving the problem is compared and contrasted with the work of scientists and engineers. Students then generate questions and define problems in their everyday lives.	MS-ETS1.B	Asking Questions and Defining Problems Analyzing and Interpreting Data Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking	Systems and System Models	ELA/Literacy: SL8.5
2. Reading: The Apollo Missions Students continue to investigate the process of engineering with a historical engineering case. While investigating the Apollo missions, students identify important criteria and constraints faced by NASA during the development of the space program. The activity elicits and builds on students' ideas about how to define a problem and develop a successful solution. The reading provides examples of how technologies are driven by individual or societal needs, desires, and values.	MS-ETS1.A MS-ETS1.B MS-ETS1.C	Analyzing and Interpreting Data	Connections to Nature of Science: Influence of Science, Engineering, and Technology on Society and the Natural World	Mathematics: MP.2 ELA/Literacy: SL8.5 RST.6-8.1

Activity Description	Disciplinary Core Ideas	Science and Engineering Practices	Crosscutting Concepts	Common Core State Standards
3. <b>Design: Gravitational Transporter</b> Students begin to investigate gravitational potential energy in a system of interacting objects. Using a system model, students investigate how the release height and/or mass of a cart will affect the amount of kinetic energy transfer in a collision. Through a process of testing, evaluating, and redesigning, students optimize their solutions by controlling the initial amount of gravitational potential energy of the transporter. They use this model to make conceptual connections between their evidence and explanations of gravitational potential energy.	MS-PS3.A MS-PS2.B MS-ETS1.A MS-ETS1.B	Developing and Using Models Engaging in Argument from Evidence Connections to Nature of Science: Scientific Knowledge Is Based on Empirical Evidence Analyzing and Interpreting Data Asking Questions and Defining Problems	Systems and System Models Connections to Nature of Science: Influence of Science, Engineering, and Technology on Society and the Natural World	Mathematics: MP.2 ELA/Literacy: SL8.5 RST.6-8.1
4. <b>Investigation: Gravitational Force</b> Students analyze and interpret data to learn about the relationship between the gravitational force between two objects, the mass of those objects, and the distance between them. Students create and analyze graphs that provide evidence that gravitational force is directly proportional to the mass of the objects interacting and inversely proportional to the distances between the objects.	MS-PS2.B MS-PS3.C	Engaging in Argument from Evidence Connections to Nature of Science: Scientific Knowledge Is Based on Empirical Evidence Analyzing and Interpreting Data Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions	Systems and System Models Patterns	ELA/Literacy: SL8.5 WHST.6-8.1
5. Investigation: Mapping Magnetic Fields Students provide evidence that there are other forces besides gravity that can act at a distance. To do this, students conduct an investigation related to the phenomenon of magnetism. In their exploration, they analyze and interpret data related to the direction of magnetic fields at different locations in those fields. They use the effects seen in one magnetic field map to predict another magnetic field map. By mapping different magnetic fields, students are able to provide evidence that fields exist between objects, exerting forces on each other even though the objects are not in contact.	MS-PS2.B MS-PS3.C	Planning and Carrying Out Investigations Analyzing and Interpreting Data	Cause and Effect	ELA/Literacy: RST.6-8.3

Activity Description	Disciplinary Core Ideas	Science and Engineering Practices	Crosscutting Concepts	Common Core State Standards
6. <b>Design: Magnetic Transporter</b> Students apply what they have learned on the phenomena of gravity and magnetism to design a magnetic transporter. They define a design problem that can be solved through the development of an object that meets multiple criteria and constraints. They use an iterative testing procedure to optimize the transporter to carry as much weight as possible. This activity provides a formal assessment opportunity for Performance Expectation MS-ETS1-1.	MS-PS3.A MS-PS2.B MS-ETS1.A MS-ETS1.B MS-ETS1.C	Developing and Using Models Analyzing and Interpreting Data Asking Questions and Defining Problems Engaging in Argument from Evidence Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions	Systems and System Models Connections to Nature of Science: Influence of Science, Engineering, and Technology on Society and the Natural World	ELA/Literacy: SL8.5 RST.6-8.7
<ul> <li>7. Reading: Gravitational and Magnetic Fields</li> <li>Students synthesize their knowledge of gravitational and magnetic fields in a reading that compares and contrasts these two kinds of fields. The reading helps students summarize what influences the magnitude and direction of forces resulting from field interactions. Students also reflect on how energy stored within a system of interacting objects relates to the relative positions of the objects interacting. These relationships are examined through the lens of the crosscutting concept of cause and effect. This activity provides a formal assessment opportunity for Performance Expectation MS-PS2-4.</li> </ul>	MS-PS2.B MS-PS3.A MS-PS3.C	Developing and Using Models Asking Questions and Defining Problems Engaging in Argument from Evidence Connections to Nature of Science: Scientific Knowledge Is Based on Empirical Evidence	Cause and Effect Systems and System Models	Mathematics: MP.2 ELA/Literacy: WHST.6-8.1
8. <b>Investigation: Static Electricity</b> Students ask questions about and then investigate how static charge can sometimes cause objects to be attracted to, and at other times repelled by, each other. By rubbing certain materials together to generate static electricity, students are able to observe that these interactions provide evidence for forces that act at a distance, which means that they can be explained by fields that extend through space. Students use a simulation to further investigate the cause and effect of phenomena related to static, since charged particles occur at scales too small to observe.	MS-PS2.B	Asking Questions and Defining Problems	Cause and Effect	

Activity Description	Disciplinary Core Ideas	Science and Engineering Practices	Crosscutting Concepts	Common Core State Standards
9. Laboratory: Electrostatic Force Students are introduced to a tool—an electroscope— that can show relative strengths of forces resulting from static electricity. Students then plan and conduct their own investigations using the electroscope to see if there is a relationship between the amount of electric charge, the distance between charged objects, and the amount of force. Students are asked to use the results of their investigations as well as evidence from previous activities to verify that fields exist between objects exerting forces on each other even though the objects are not in contact.	MS-PS2.B	Planning and Carrying Out Investigations Asking Questions and Defining Problems Analyzing and Interpreting Data	Cause and Effect	ELA/Literacy: WHST.6-8.7 RST.6-8.3
10. <b>Computer Simulation: Visualizing</b> <b>an Electric Field</b> Students use a computer simulation to support their understanding of an electrostatic field. The simulation allows students to visualize the interaction between static charges. The model enables students to ask and then investigate questions about what affects the direction and magnitude of forces in an electric field. Students also investigate the potential energy stored in the system of interacting charges.	MS-PS3.A MS-PS2.B	Asking Questions and Defining Problems Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions	Cause and Effect Systems and System Models	ELA/Literacy: WHST.6-8.7 RST.6-8.3
<ul> <li>11. Modeling: Electric Field Transporter</li> <li>Students apply what they have learned about electric and gravitational fields to design a hovering transporter cart that depends on electrostatic force to move. They develop a model in a computer simulation where they can manipulate the arrangement of charges to design the system. By testing, analyzing data, and redesigning, students combine the best characteristics of each design to make a new solution that better meets the criteria of the transporter. This activity provides a formal assessment opportunity for Performance Expectation MS-PS3-2.</li> </ul>	MS-PS3.A MS-PS3.C MS-ETS1.B MS-ETS1.C	Developing and Using Models	Systems and System Models Scale, Proportion, and Quantity	Mathematics: MP.2

	Activity Description	Disciplinary Core Ideas	Science and Engineering Practices	Crosscutting Concepts	Common Core State Standards
12.	Investigation: Electric and Magnetic Fields Students investigate the induction of electric and magnetic fields through a series of hands-on investigations. Students complete two explorations on the relationship between electricity and magnetism. After observing the effects of electromagnetic induction, students then conduct investigations to determine the factors that affect the strength of magnetic fields from an electromagnetic coil on a test object. Students evaluate the designs of their experiments for the quantity and quality of evidence of what factors affect the strength of electric and magnetic fields. This activity provides a formal assessment opportunity for Performance Expectation MS-PS2-5.	MS-ETS1.B MS-PS2.B	Asking Questions and Defining Problems Developing and Using Models Planning and Carrying Out Investigations	Cause and Effect Patterns	Mathematics: MP.2 ELA/Literacy: RST.6-8.3
13.	Design: Gyrosphere Rescue In this engineering design challenge, students apply their scientific knowledge about what affects the strength of an electromagnetic field to build a device to move steel bearings from one location to another. They collect data, test and redesign several solutions to optimize their designs, and develop the most successful designs for the criteria. Then they evaluate others' designs and discuss the design trade-offs. Students also consider the scientific investigations they have been conducting and identify what information is needed in order to determine the strength of electric and magnetic forces. This activity provides formal assessment opportunities for Performance Expectations MS- ETS1-4 and MS-PS2-3.	MS-PS2.B MS-ETS1.B MS-ETS1.C	Asking Questions and Defining Problems Analyzing and Interpreting Data Developing and Using Models Engaging in Argument from Evidence Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions	Cause and Effect	Mathematics: MP.2

Activity Description	Disciplinary Core Ideas	Science and Engineering Practices	Crosscutting Concepts	Common Core State Standards
14. Reading: Electric and Electromagnetic Fields This reading provides a synthesis of the information in the unit on electric and electromagnetic fields. The factors that determine the strength and direction of these fields is presented. Students are given an opportunity to further explore how electric and electromagnetic fields are distinct from gravitational and magnetic fields. Technology that depends on the phenomena of electric and electromagnetic fields are presented in the context of everyday use. The cause-and-effect relationship between the fields and forces allows students to understand how phenomena are used in these designed systems.	MS-PS2.B	Connections to Nature of Science: Scientific Knowledge Is Based on Empirical Evidence	Cause and Effect	Mathematics: MP.2 ELA/Literacy: RST.6-8.1
15. Talking It Over: Evaluating Transporter Designs Students use the scientific knowledge they have accumulated in this unit to systematically evaluate competing design solutions based on scientific validity and design success. After evaluating four proposals, students combine the best aspects of the proposals into their own designs. This activity provides a formal assessment opportunity for Performance Expectations MS- ETS1-2 and MS-ETS1-3.	MS-ETS1.B MS-ETS1.C	Engaging in Argument from Evidence Analyzing and Interpreting Data Developing and Using Models Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking	Connections to Nature of Science: Influence of Science, Engineering, and Technology on Society and the Natural World	Mathematics: MP.2 ELA/Literacy: WHST.6-8.9 RST.6-8.1

# **NGSS CORRELATIONS**

## FIELDS AND INTERACTIONS

	Activity number	
Cause and Effect	Cause and effect relationships may be used to predict phenomena in natural or designed systems.	5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14
Patterns	Graphs, charts, and images can be used to identify patterns in data.	4,12
Scale, Proportion, and Quantity	Proportional relationships (e.g. speed as the ratio of distance traveled to time taken) among different types of quantities provide information about the magnitude of properties and processes.	11
Systems and System Models	Models can be used to represent systems and their interactions—such as inputs, processes and out-puts—and energy and matter flows within systems.	1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11
Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of	The use of technologies and any limitations on their use are driven by individual or societal needs, desires, and values; by the findings of scientific research; and by differences in such factors as cli- mate, natural resources, and economic conditions. Thus, technology use varies from region to region and over time.	2, 6, 15
Science	All human activity draws on natural resources and has both short- and long-term consequences, positive as well as negative, for the health of people and the natural environment.	3, 6
Scie	Activity number	
	Analyze and interpret data to determine similarities and differences in findings.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 13, 15
Analyzing and Interpreting Data	Consider limitations of data analysis (e.g., mea-	
	and accuracy of data with better technological tools and methods (e.g., multiple trials).	9
	and accuracy of data with better technological tools and methods (e.g., multiple trials). Define a design problem that can be solved through the development of an object, tool, pro- cess, or system and includes multiple criteria and constraints, including scientific knowledge that may limit possible solutions.	9
Asking Questions and Defining Problems	<ul> <li>and accuracy of data with better technological tools and methods (e.g., multiple trials).</li> <li>Define a design problem that can be solved through the development of an object, tool, process, or system and includes multiple criteria and constraints, including scientific knowledge that may limit possible solutions.</li> <li>Ask questions that can be investigated within the scope of the classroom, outdoor environment, and museums and other public facilities with available resources and, when appropriate, frame a hypothesis based on observations and scientific principles.</li> </ul>	9 1, 3, 6 7, 8, 10, 12, 13
Asking Questions and Defining Problems	<ul> <li>and accuracy of data with better technological tools and methods (e.g., multiple trials).</li> <li>Define a design problem that can be solved through the development of an object, tool, process, or system and includes multiple criteria and constraints, including scientific knowledge that may limit possible solutions.</li> <li>Ask questions that can be investigated within the scope of the classroom, outdoor environment, and museums and other public facilities with available resources and, when appropriate, frame a hypothesis based on observations and scientific principles.</li> <li>Ask questions that arise from careful observation of phenomena, models, or unexpected results, to clarify and/or seek additional information.</li> </ul>	9 1, 3, 6 7, 8, 10, 12, 13 12

Scie	ence and Engineering Practices	Activity number
Constructing	Construct an explanation that includes qualitative or quantitative relationships between variables that predict or describe phenomena.	4, 10
Designing Solutions	Apply scientific ideas or principles to design, construct, and/or test a design of an object, tool, process or system.	6,13
	Develop a model to describe unobservable mechanisms.	3, 6, 7, 11
Developing and Using Models	Develop a model to generate data to test ideas about designed systems, including those represent- ing inputs and outputs.	3, 6, 11, 12, 13
	Evaluate limitations of a model for a proposed object or tool.	15
Using Mathematics	Create algorithms (a series of ordered steps) to solve a problem	1
and Computational Thinking	Use digital tools and/or mathematical concepts and arguments to test and compare proposed solutions to an engineering design problem.	15
	Construct and present oral and written arguments supported by empirical evidence and scientific reasoning to support or refute an explanation or a model for a phenomenon or a solution to a problem.	3, 4, 7
Engaging in Argument from Evidence	Evaluate competing design solutions based on jointly developed and agreed-upon design criteria.	6, 13, 15
	Make an oral or written argument that supports or refutes the advertised performance of a device, process, or system based on empirical evidence concerning whether or not the technology meets relevant criteria and constraints.	15
Planning and Carrying Out Investigations	Conduct an investigation and evaluate the experi- mental design to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence that can meet the goals of the investi- gation.	5, 9, 12
Connections to the Nature of Science	Scientific knowledge is based on logical and conceptual connections between evidence and explanations.	3, 4, 7, 14

	Activity number	
	Electrical and magnetic (electromagnetic) forces can be attractive or repulsive, and their sizes depend on the magnitudes of the charges, currents, or magnetic strengths involved and on the distances between the interacting objects.	7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14
Types of Interactions (PS2.B)	Gravitational forces are always attractive. There is a gravitational force between any two masses, but it is very small except when one or both of the objects have large mass (e.g., Earth and the sun).	3, 4, 6, 7
	Forces that act at a distance (electrical, magnetic, and gravitational) can be explained by fields that extend through space and can be mapped by their effect on a test object (a charged object, a magnet, or a ball respectively).	5, 7, 9, 10, 12
Definitions of Energy (PS3.A)	A system of objects may also contain stored (poten- tial) energy, depending on their relative positions.	3, 6, 7, 10, 11
Relationship Between Energy and Forces (PS3.C)	When two objects interact, each one exerts a force on the other that can cause energy to be transferred to or from the object.	4, 5, 7, 11
Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems (ETS1.A)	The more precisely a design task's criteria and constraints can be defined, the more likely it is that the designed solution will be successful. Specification of constraints includes consideration of scientific principles and other relevant knowledge that is likely to limit possible solutions.	2, 3, 6
	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 criteria and constraints of a problem.	2, 3, 6, 11, 13
Developing Possible Solutions (ETS1.B)	There are systematic processes for evaluating solutions with respect to how well they meet the criteria and constraints of a problem.	6, 13, 15
	Sometimes parts of different solutions can be combined to create a solution that is better than any of its predecessors.	6, 12, 13, 15
	Models of all kinds are important for testing solutions	1, 2, 6, 11, 13
Optimizing the Design Solution (ETS1.C)	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 the characteristics may be incorporated into the new design.	6, 13, 15
	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.	2, 6, 11, 13

	Activity number	
	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-ETS1-1)	6
Engineering Design	Evaluate competing design solutions using a systematic process to determine how well they meet the criteria and constraints of the problem. (MS-ETS1-2)	15
(2131)	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-ETS1-3)	15
	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. (MS-ETS1-4)	13
	Ask questions about data to determine the factors that affect the strength of electrical and magnetic forces. (MS-PS2-3)	13
Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions (PS2)	Construct and present arguments using evidence to support the claim that gravitational interactions are attractive and depend on the masses of interacting objects. (MS-PS2-4)	7
	Conduct an investigation and evaluate the experi- mental design to provide evidence that fields exist between objects exerting forces on each other even though the objects are not in contact. (MS-PS2-5)	12
Energy (PS3)	Develop a model to describe that when the arrangement of objects interacting at a distance changes, different amounts of potential energy are stored in the system. (MS-PS3-2)	11

# COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS: CONNECTIONS AND CORRELATIONS

### FIELDS AND INTERACTIONS

### **Making Connections in ELA**

As with all SEPUP instructional materials, this unit introduces multiple opportunities for students to engage in a range of ELA practices and skills that are important grade-specific goals of the common core state standards and are also essential to the sensemaking students are doing throughout the unit. Specifically, students engage with readings (RST.6-8.1) that support their sensemaking about the engineering design process in activity 2 and about electric and electromagnetic fields in activity 14. In activity 6, students create and label a diagram to illustrate their understanding of the gravitational and magnetic forces acting on a magnetic hover cart (RST.6-8.7). Students also read and follow a multi-step procedure (RST.6-8.3) in a series of investigations and experiments (activities 5, 9, 10 and 12) as they make sense of magnetic and electric fields. Students communicate their sensemaking in writing as they construct arguments (WHST.6-8.1) in support of explanations of gravity in activity 4 and for an argumentation assessment in activity 7 about the characteristics of gravitational and magnetic fields. In activity 9, students conduct and document their own experiments (WHST.6-8.7) to investigate electrostatic forces, leveraging a variety of equipment and drawing on a variety of available sources of information from the unit. In the final activity of the unit, students evaluate a series of proposals for a Moon transporter design, drawing on evidence from texts and sensemaking they have done throughout the unit to rank and reflect on the designs to develop a written proposal for a new design that incorporates the best features of all proposed designs (WHST.6-8.9). Specific literacy strategies are embedded throughout the unit to support student development of these ELA skills and practices. In addition, Appendix E: Literacy Strategies in the Student Book contains optional resources to support reading, writing and oral communication.

Common Core S	State Standards – English Language Arts	Activity number
	Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts, attending to the precise details of explanations or descriptions. (RST.6-8.1)	2, 3, 14, 15
Reading in Science and Technical Subjects	Follow precisely a multi-step procedure when carrying out experiments, taking measurements, or performing technical tasks. (RST.6-8.3)	5, 9, 10, 12
	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). (RST.6-8.7)	6
	Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content. (WHST.6-8.1)	4,7
Writing in History/ Social Studies, Science, and Technological Subjects (WHST)	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. (WHST6-8.7)	9, 10
	Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. (WHST.6-8.9)	15
Speaking and Listening (SL)	Integrate multimedia and visual displays into presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add interest. (SL.8.5)	1, 2, 3, 4, 6

#### **Making Connections in Mathematics**

This unit introduces multiple opportunities for students to engage in two math practices and skills that are important grade-specific goals of the common core state standards and are also essential to the sensemaking students are doing throughout the unit. First, abstract and quantitative reasoning (MP.2) plays a key role in the unit as students engage with a variety of mathematical representations and models to explore gravitational energy and gravitational, electric, and magnetic fields. This takes place across multiple activities, allowing students to develop their reasoning skills as they progress their sensemaking. Building on this, students engage with equations and independent and dependent variables (6.EE.C.9) in two different contexts. First in activity 4, they explore the universal law of gravitation and graph the relationship between gravitational pull, distance and mass. In activity 9, students are introduced to Coulomb's law and analyze tabular data to determine the relationship between the strength of an electric field between two charged objects, the distance between two charged objects, and the amount of charge on each object . Both activities contain an extension where students use the equations to make calculations of gravitational or electrostatic force. To support students in creating and interpreting graphical displays of data in activity 4, an optional student sheet entitled "Scatterplot and Line Graphing Checklist" is provided in Appendix C: Science Skills in the Student Book.

Common C	Activity number	
Mathematical Practice (MP)	Reason abstractly and quantitatively. (MP.2)	2, 3, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15
Expressions and Equations (EE)	Use variables to represent two quantities in a real-world problem that change in relationship to one another; write an equation to express one quantity, thought of as the dependent variable, in terms of the other quantity, thought of as the independent variable. Analyze the relationship between the dependent and independent variables using graphs and tables, and relate these to the equation. (6.EE.C.9)	4,9