

SCIENCE IN OUR WORLD

Everywhere we look, there are signs of SCIENCE! Science is all around us. We see examples of many different scientific happenings every day.

Plants Around Us

If you took a moment to observe plants around you, you would notice that plants usually stay in the same place but still get what they need to survive.

Let's say you want to plant a garden in your yard. After you pick the area where you want to plant your garden, it is important to **observe** how much sunlight that area gets before picking out the type of plants to plant in your garden because some plants grow well in only areas that receive a lot of sunshine while others do not.

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You are taking a walk in the park and notice a bird that has built a nest on a high branch of a tree. The bird quickly flies down to a puddle to take a drink. This reminds us that animals, like birds, need living and nonliving things to survive.

How many animal homes (shelters) can you see around you as you walk in the park? ...a bird's nest, a beehive, or maybe a mouse hole.



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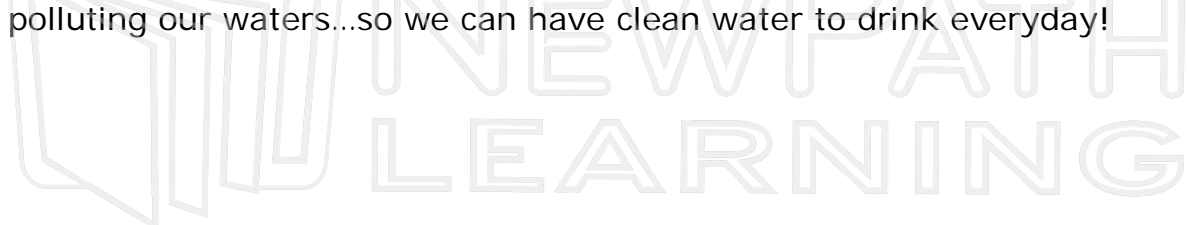
Water

Water

earth.

You can see many living things use or drink water every day. You drink water every day!

It is important that the water we drink is clean, so that we don't get sick when we drink it. There is a federal law in the United States called The Clean Water Act. This law protects our waters and tries to prevent people from polluting our waters...so we can have clean water to drink everyday!



Weather We See Outside

You might watch the weather report in the morning to see what the weather is going to be like for that day. If you hear the **meteorologist** say that the **air pressure** will be high for the day, you know that you will have a sunny day.



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We use natural resources every day to light and heat our homes and schools, to drive our cars, and many other things. Natural resources are very precious and we need to be sure to conserve the resources we use each day.

You could help conserve electricity by turning off lights when you leave a room or by opening your windows instead of turning on your air conditioner. You can conserve water by turning off the faucet while you brush your teeth or by taking shorter showers.

This includes recycling too! One way you could create less garbage at home in order to help the environment and have less trash be sent to landfills is to recycling things like paper and glass.



Matter and Its Properties We Can See

Matter is all around us. Anything you see around you that takes up space and has mass is matter.

Properties are characteristics or traits of the objects we see around us every day. Some objects we see are large, while others are much smaller in size. Some objects are heavy, while others are light in weight. You can observe with your eyes and hands many physical properties of matter around you.

For example, density is a property of matter. Let's say you threw a rock in a creek and the rock sank right down to the bottom. You now know about the **density** of the rock: the rock had greater density than water.

Changes in Matter We See

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experience matter changing states again, the water changing from a liquid to a gas.

Forces, Motion, and How Things Move Around Us (gravity)

You see objects, people, and animals in motion all the time. If something or someone is moving – that means it is in motion! An example of an object in motion is a car driving by on the road.



Sometimes you will see objects slowing down because of friction. If you roll a ball on grass and then you roll the ball on the sidewalk, you would notice the ball roll faster on the sidewalk. This is because the grass causes MORE friction against the ball making it roll slower than it did on the sidewalk.

Work and Machines We Use and See (simple machines)

When you move something, you are working. Simple machines are used everyday by many people to make work easier to do. Everyday you most likely see or even use a simple machine....like when you see a pulley on the top of the flagpole at your school. When you walk up a ramp instead of the stairs, you are walking up an inclined plane, which is a simple machine. When you put something together using a screw, you are using a simple machine. Even when you go to the park and take a ride on the see saw with your little brother or sister, you are riding on a simple machine.



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Energy

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requires batteries – you are experiencing chemical energy. When you stir your cup of hot chocolate with a metal spoon and feel the spoon getting warm – you are experiencing thermal energy.

Light is also a form of energy that we see and use every day. When you wear a black shirt outside on a sunny day, the black color of your shirt will absorb the light from the sun, making you feel warmer. Light, when blocked, also creates shadows. You most likely will see a shadow every sunny day.



Sounds We Hear

When you hear sounds around you, you hear sounds of different volumes. Many sounds you hear around you measure in higher **decibels**, like an airplane taking off, and many sounds would measure in lower decibels, like when you hear someone whispering. When you listen to a band play or music on the radio, you can hear high and low sounds being played by different instruments. Pitch describes how low or high the sounds are that are being played.



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When it is daytime on our side of the planet Earth, it is nighttime on the other side of the world.

The Earth and its position from the Sun determine what season we are having on Earth. So, if we live in the Northern Hemisphere, during the winter the Northern Hemisphere is tilted away from the Sun during the winter months, making it colder where we live.