

SuperScience

SuperScience® Meets Common Core State Standards

Use this magazine to help you meet
the key anchor standards in reading and writing.

SuperScience is aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Using this science classroom magazine as authentic nonfiction, you can support all Reading Informational Text standards. What's more, *SuperScience* (both print and digital editions), the Teacher's Guide, and the website will help you meet the key anchor standards in Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language.

Anchor Standards for Reading

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Key Ideas and Details

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.

- Skills pages in the Teacher's Guide and on the *SuperScience* website provide reading comprehension questions that support strategy instruction and require close reading and analysis of the text.
- Students are required to set purposes and respond to questions after reading, both orally and in writing, using textual evidence.
- Questions on the back page require students to draw information from the text in order to provide answers.

2

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

- Graphic organizers with each issue reinforce skills such as identifying themes, summarizing, compare/contrast, character, plot, setting, author's purpose, and main idea and details.
- Some issues provide thematically-related topics that encourage students to gain broad understandings of a theme (e.g., students read an article about how cacao beans become chocolate; they read a fictional mystery about the melting points of different types of chocolate; they perform a graphing activity related to chocolate).
- Skills pages contain short reading passages that students are required to read and analyze.
- Students explore a wide variety of media (print, video, websites), helping them develop broad and deep understandings of an idea, topic, or theme.

Key Ideas and Details

3

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

- The skills pages provide various graphic organizers (e.g., two-column charts, Venn Diagrams, etc.) to help students make connections about topics they have read about in the magazine.
- Skills pages focus on reading comprehension skills such as identifying characters, settings, and major events in a story.
- Students can read about individuals and events across varied formats, both online (slide shows, web links, videos) and in print (Student Edition). Each format is linked thematically and provides rich, developed information about a topic.
- The Student Edition provides numerous visual texts (e.g., steps in a technical procedure, photo call-outs, diagrams, charts, graphs, etc.) to help students make connections.

Craft and Structure

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.

- Vocabulary words are boldfaced in the Student Edition (print and digital versions). Words are defined in “Words to Know” boxes and are supported by context clues in the articles. In the digital version, words are additionally available as a pop-up feature accessible at point of use or in a “vocabulary” toolbar at the foot of the screen.
- Many skills pages provide vocabulary reinforcement activities that use and extend the vocabulary learned in the Student Edition.
- Many skills pages help students identify the author’s purpose and consider his/her choice of words in a text (e.g., What is another way the author could have said this? Why does the author describe this in this way?).

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.

- Articles in the Student Edition offer varying text structures (e.g., titles, heads, section heads, paragraphs, captions) and varying sentence complexities; these may be used as exemplar texts of published writing.
- Literary and informational text features are used throughout the print and digital issues including subheads, captions, sidebars, keywords, hyperlinks, characters, settings, dialogue, and more.
- Each issue also includes a “What’s Inside” table of contents box that invites readers to preview the issue.
- In “Science Mysteries,” numbered and color coded scenes help students understand the text’s structure. Character boxes also help students organize their oral reading.

Craft and Structure

6

Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

- Lesson plans in the Teacher’s Guide focus on essential informational reading comprehension skills, including identifying author’s purpose
- Visual aids (e.g., charts, graphs, diagrams, captions) in the Student Edition and online (e.g., slide shows, videos) require students to read and interpret a variety of visual representations to learn important ideas and information.
- Each photo and illustration that appears in *SuperScience* is specially chosen for its visual impact; photos support and build on the information provided in the text.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

7

Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and qualitatively, as well as in words.

- *SuperScience’s* Student Edition, Teacher’s Guide, and website provide students with anchor videos and background information related to content in the issue.
- Whiteboard-ready slideshows of activities and other content are accessible at *SuperScience’s* website.
- Visual aids (e.g., charts, maps, diagrams, etc.) in the print and digital Student Editions reinforce the main ideas in the text.

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.

- Well-crafted articles allow for analysis at both the sentence and paragraph levels.

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.

- Readers can compare and contrast articles written throughout the year on similar topics. Back issues of *SuperScience* are available online.
- Many issues contain two types of text on the same topic—a reading passage, play, or short story and an informational text—that students can compare and contrast.
- Skills sheets feature reading passages that provide additional information about a related topic or theme to build and expand background knowledge. Skills sheets also provide opportunities for students to compare and contrast topics, themes, and information.
- Students can compare and contrast videos, slideshows, and digital and print issues on the same topic.
- *SuperScience’s* website provides a search feature in which users can access multiple articles on a topic or theme for analysis and comparison.

Anchor Standards for Reading

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Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

10

Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

- Articles in the Student Edition can be used as grade-appropriate example texts of published science writing for independent reading.
- The “Science News” feature on *SuperScience’s* website provides current news stories about a wide range of science topics.

Anchor Standards for Writing

SuperScience

Text Types and Purposes

1

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

- Skills pages in the Teacher’s Guide encourage students to analyze topics and write in response to their reading.

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.

- Many skills pages call on students to write short informative responses about information they learned from the text.

3

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

- Articles in the Student Edition can be used as exemplars of published science writing. Additional support can be provided by the teacher.

Production and Distribution of Writing

4

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

- Many *SuperScience* skills sheets prompt students to organize their thoughts and perspectives in a way that facilitates thoughtful writing and analysis.

5

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

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Production and Distribution of Writing

6

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

- *SuperScience's* website provides Interactive whiteboard activities, videos, and slideshows that can serve as the foundation for students to collaborate and to produce their own writing.
- Articles in the Student Edition, Digital Edition, and the "Science News" articles on *SuperScience's* website can be used as examples of published online writing and can be utilized as a trustworthy online source for student research.

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

7

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

- The "web links" button within the *SuperScience* digital issue suggests additional resources, which lend themselves to research and writing projects for students to complete.

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.

- Students are required to gather relevant information from reading the Student Edition and resources available at *SuperScience's* website (e.g., background/anchor videos, web links, related news stories, etc.)

9

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

- Articles in the Student Edition can also be used to prompt writing projects on specific topics.

Range of Writing

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.

- The writing prompts suggested in the skills pages or topics covered in the Student Editions can be used during instruction to write for a wide variety of purposes.

Comprehension and Collaboration

1

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

- Teacher's Guide Discussion Questions encourage students to probe their background knowledge, share ideas and experiences, and to respond to issue topics.

2

Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

- On the skills pages, students write short informative responses about information they learned from the text.
- Students gain information from a variety of media (e.g., print, websites, online videos, slideshows, charts, graphs, maps, etc.) and formats (e.g., visually, orally, etc.).

3

Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.

- Many skills pages invite students to consider the author's purpose in writing a text and his/her point of view; all responses require textual evidence.
- Students can read interviews and other first-hand accounts with scientists and science professionals in the Student Edition. These accounts can be used for a variety of purposes including considering one's point of view, reasoning, etc.

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

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.

- Articles in the Student Edition can be used as exemplars of published science writing.
- Additional support can be provided by the teacher.

5

Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance the understanding of presentations.

- Many of the issues contain links to digital media and visual displays online (e.g., interactive whiteboard activities, slideshows, videos, games, etc.) that enhance the student's experience and deepen their knowledge of a topic.

6

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

- Writing prompts and questions on skills pages can be used for oral responses in a variety of contexts (e.g., formal and informal settings)
- Articles in the Student Edition can be used to stimulate discussion about given topics.

Conventions of Standard English

1

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

- Writing prompts on skills pages and the discussion prompts in the Teacher's Guide provide students with ample opportunities for writing and speaking using standard conventions.
- The background video, Student Edition, and other print and online materials serve as models for usage of standard English grammar in speaking and writing.

2

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

- The Student Edition and other print materials serve as models for correct uses of capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.
- Containing many examples of spelling patterns *SuperScience* is a great resource to supplement your word study program.
- The writing prompts within skills pages provide students with ample opportunities for writing using standard conventions.

Knowledge of Language

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.

- Articles in the Student Edition can be used as a basis for writing and speaking in both formal and informal settings.

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

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.

- *SuperScience* features multiple boldfaced vocabulary words with adequate sentence-level context for determining definitions (e.g., Many different animals...go on the move, or migrate, each year.)

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

5

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

- In all formats of *SuperScience*, in-sentence definitions (e.g., Cows, like horses, are domesticated animals. That means that through selective breeding over time, humans change animals from being wild to being tame.) use shades of meaning to help students learn new words and distinguish between closely related verbs.

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.

- All *SuperScience* issues introduce new words and phrases to students; often they are required to use the new vocabulary in responses.
- Videos and other content on *SuperScience's* website also introduce new vocabulary.

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