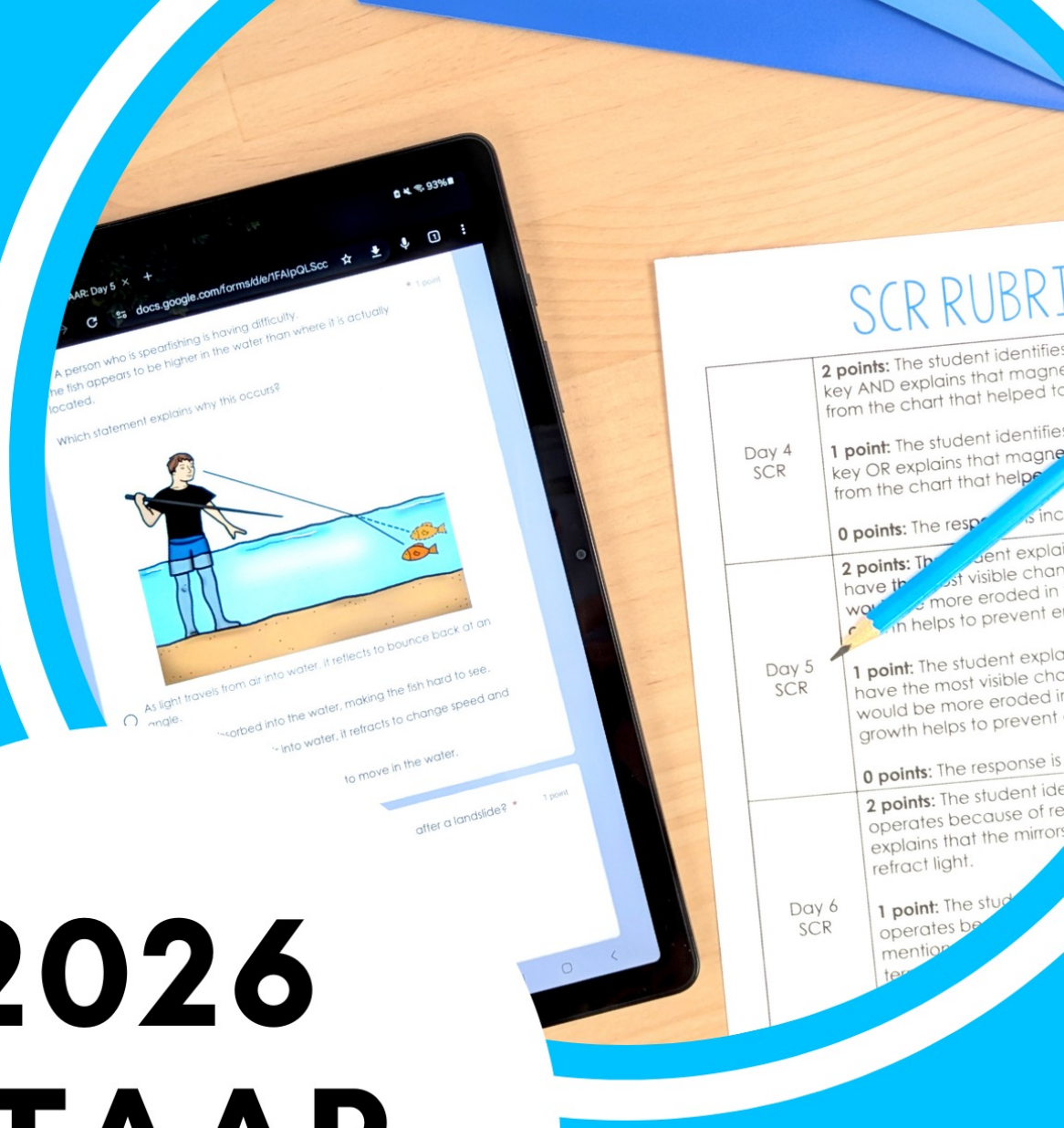


2026 STAAR GUIDE

The Science Penguin

5th Grade Science TEKS

2026 Science STAAR Prep

Hello!

Thank you so much for downloading this 2-week review planning guide. I aim to make test prep as simple as possible!

If you followed the Science Penguin Full-Year Planning Guide, you have already:

- ✓ taught all tested content
- ✓ reviewed tested content from previous grade levels
- ✓ practiced all types of STAAR questions with Boom Cards, Google Forms, and Test Prep Task Cards
- ✓ improved students' writing, reasoning, and science skills
- ✓ utilized various materials to meet individual needs
- ✓ reviewed content all year with Spiral Review

In the STAAR Planning Guide, we will:

- ✓ follow TEA's Assessed Curriculum and Blueprint
- ✓ use fresh resources that were not key components of the Full-Year Planning Guide

Please remember this is a planning *guide*. I don't know your students like you do. **Trust yourself to decide what is best for your students!**

Ari Mosquera
Owner, The Science Penguin

2026 STAAR Tested TEKS

These standards are eligible for the 2026 Science STAAR. The full-year planning guide thoroughly addressed these standards with phenomenon-based units and reviewed tested TEKS from 4th grade.

Matter and Energy Strand

5.6A
compare and contrast matter based on measurable, testable, or observable physical properties, including mass, magnetism, relative density (sinking and floating using water as a reference point), physical state (solid, liquid, gas), volume, solubility in water, and the ability to conduct or insulate thermal energy and electric energy

5.6B
demonstrate and explain that some mixtures maintain physical properties of their substances such as iron filings and sand or sand and water

5.6C
compare the properties of substances before and after they are combined into a solution and demonstrate that matter is conserved in solutions

Force, Motion, and Energy Strand

5.7A
investigate and explain how equal and unequal forces acting on an object cause patterns of motion and transfer of energy

5.7B
design a simple experimental investigation that tests the effect of force on an object such as a car on a ramp or balloon rocket on a string

5.8B
demonstrate that electrical energy in complete circuits can be transformed into motion, light, sound, or thermal energy and identify the requirements for a functioning electrical circuit

5.8C
demonstrate and explain how light travels in a straight line and can be reflected, refracted, or absorbed

4.8A
investigate and identify the transfer of energy by objects in motion, waves in water, and sound

2026 STAAR Tested TEKS

Earth and Space Strand

5.9
demonstrate that Earth rotates on its axis once approximately every 24 hours and explain how that causes the day/night cycle and the appearance of the Sun moving across the sky, resulting in changes in shadow positions and shapes

4.9A
collect and analyze data to identify sequences and predict patterns of change in seasons such as changes in temperature and length of daylight

4.9B
collect and analyze data to identify sequences and predict patterns of change in the observable appearance of the Moon from Earth

5.10A
explain how the Sun and the ocean interact in the water cycle and affect weather

5.10B
model and describe the processes that led to the formation of sedimentary rocks and fossil fuels

5.10C
model and identify how changes to Earth's surface by wind, water, or ice result in the formation of landforms, including deltas, canyons, and sand dunes

4.10A
describe and illustrate the continuous movement of water above and on the surface of Earth through the water cycle and explain the role of the Sun as a major source of energy in this process

4.10B
model and describe slow changes to Earth's surface caused by weathering, erosion, and deposition from water, wind, and ice

4.10C
differentiate between weather and climate

4.11A
identify and explain advantages and disadvantages of using Earth's renewable and nonrenewable natural resources such as wind, water, sunlight, plants, animals, coal, oil, and natural gas

Organisms and Environments Strand

5.12A
observe and describe how a variety of organisms survive by interacting with biotic and abiotic factors in a healthy ecosystem

5.13A
analyze the structures and functions of different species to identify how organisms survive in the same environment

4.12B
describe the cycling of matter and flow of energy through food webs, including the roles of the Sun, producers, consumers, and decomposers

2026 STAAR FAQ

Q: Will 3rd grade TEKS be assessed?

A: According to TEA's presentation at the 2025 CAST conference and verification with TEA in January, the 3rd grade TEKS will **not** be assessed in Spring 2026.

2

MOST POPULAR FAQ: Will the 3rd and 6th grade standards be assessed in Spring 2026?

We announced at the 2024 science state conference that the **grades 3 and 6 will not be included on the 2026 STAAR test forms** to allow for instructional shifts in the new TEKS.

What TEKS are eligible to be assessed with the full implementation into STAAR?

2025-2026 *Full Implementation into STAAR*	2026-2027 *and following years*
➢ **Assessed Curriculum:** NEW Assessed Curriculum documents Full Implementation (Beginning Spring 2026)	➢ **Assessed Curriculum:** NEW Assessed Curriculum documents Full Implementation (Beginning Spring 2026)
➢ **Blueprint:** NEW blueprints Full Implementation (Beginning Spring 2026)	➢ **Blueprint:** NEW blueprints Full Implementation (Beginning Spring 2026)
➢ **Reference Materials (Middle School Only):** NEW reference materials Middle School Science Reference Materials	➢ **Reference Materials (Middle School Only):** NEW reference materials Middle School Science Reference Materials
For Spring 2026 ONLY, the grade 3 and grade 6 standards included on the assessed curriculum documents will not be included on STAAR to allow for instructional shifts in the new TEKS.	**Beginning with the Spring 2027 administration**, all standards on the assessed curriculum documents are available to be assessed on STAAR.

TEA | TEXAS ASSESSMENT Supporting Academic Achievement

TEA | TEXAS ASSESSMENT Valid and Reliable Measures of Student Progress 13

Q: How many questions can we expect?

A: According to TEA's Elementary Science STAAR Blueprint, there will be 24-26 questions.

STAAR

Elementary Science STAAR Blueprint
Administered in Grade 5

Effective beginning with the 2025-2026 school year

Strand	Number of Questions	Number of Points
Matter and Energy	3–5	4–7
Force, Motion, and Energy	4–6	5–8
Earth and Space	10–12	11–15
Organisms and Environments	4–6	5–8
Total	**24–26**	**30**

Sub–scores will not be reported for the Strands.

Question Types by Point Value	Number of Questions	Number of Points
1–point questions (multiple choice and non–multiple choice)	18–22	18–22
2–point questions (non–multiple choice)	4–6	8–12
Total	**24–26**	**30**

2026 STAAR FAQ

Q: What question types are eligible for testing in 2026?

A: According to TEA's Elementary Science STAAR Blueprint, we might see:

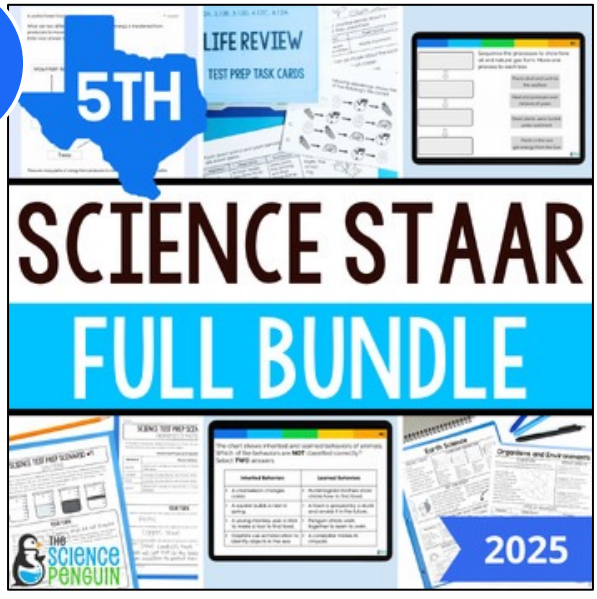
- Drag and drop
- Hot spot
- Inline choice
- Match table grid
- Multipart
- Multiple choice
- Multiselect
- Short constructed response
- Cluster question sets

Question types: Drag and drop, hot spot, inline choice, match table grid, multipart, multiple choice, multiselect, short constructed response (SCR), and cluster question sets. Cluster question sets are composed of a stimulus (scenario with a graphic and/or data display) and 3–5 questions. Each question in the cluster counts as a separate question in the blueprint and is scored independently from other questions in the cluster. Practice Test site

Purchasing Options

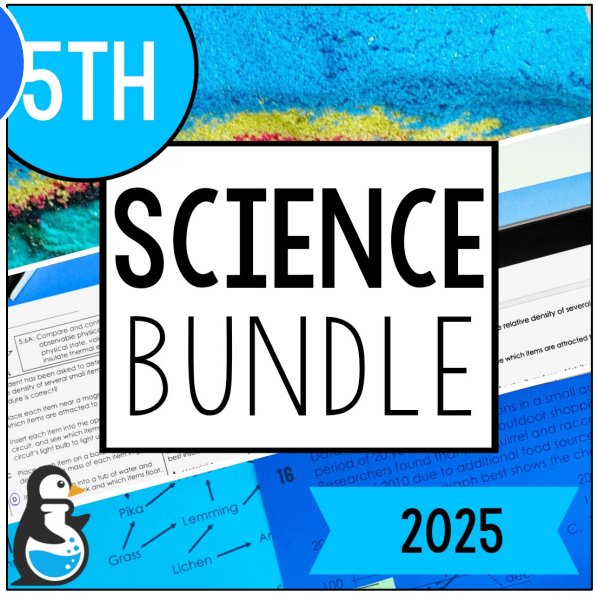
You have 3 purchasing options for perfect test prep!

1



[Science STAAR Bundle]
Contains test prep resources specific to STAAR readiness

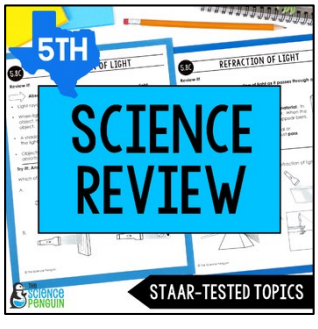
2

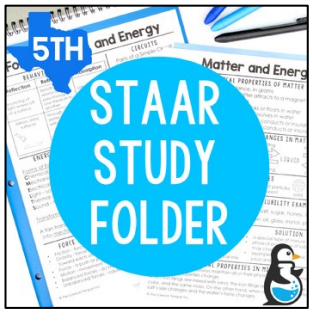


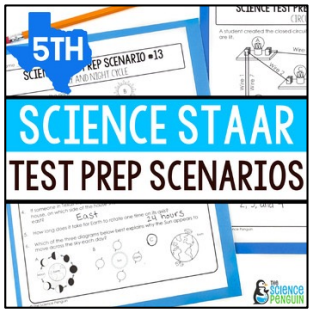
[5th Grade TEKS Bundle]
Contains the STAAR bundle and teaching resources for an entire year

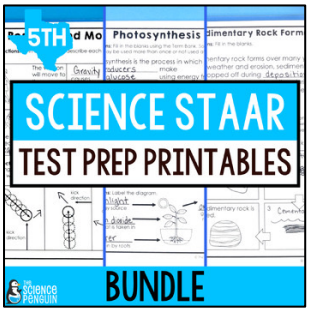
3

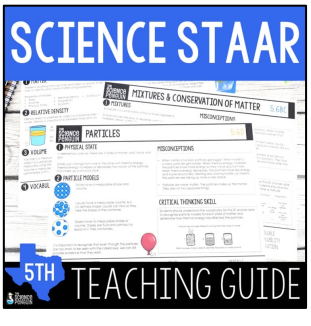
You can purchase resources individually on TPT. [Browse here.]







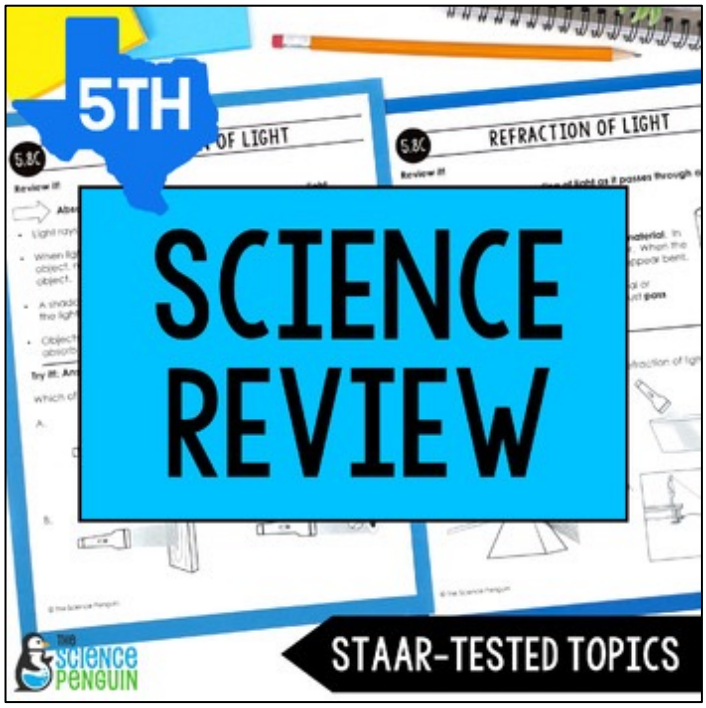




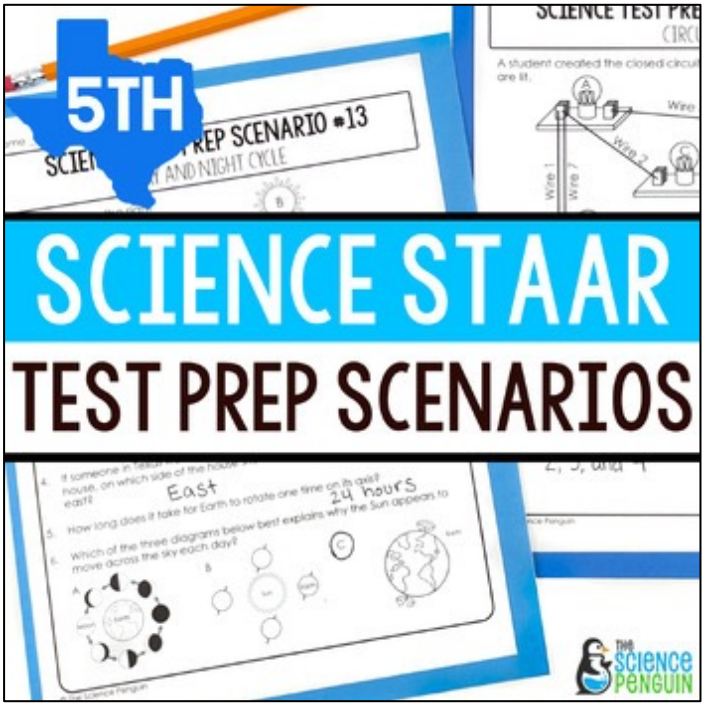
Individualized Review

Use individual student data to guide your review outside of class!

Print or digitally assign the topics each student needs to review for homework, during your intervention time, or as morning work.



5th Grade Science Review



Science Test Prep Scenarios

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10 Days to STAAR

This warm-up is essential to Science STAAR success!

This warm-up in Google Forms contains 10 questions per day for 10 days.

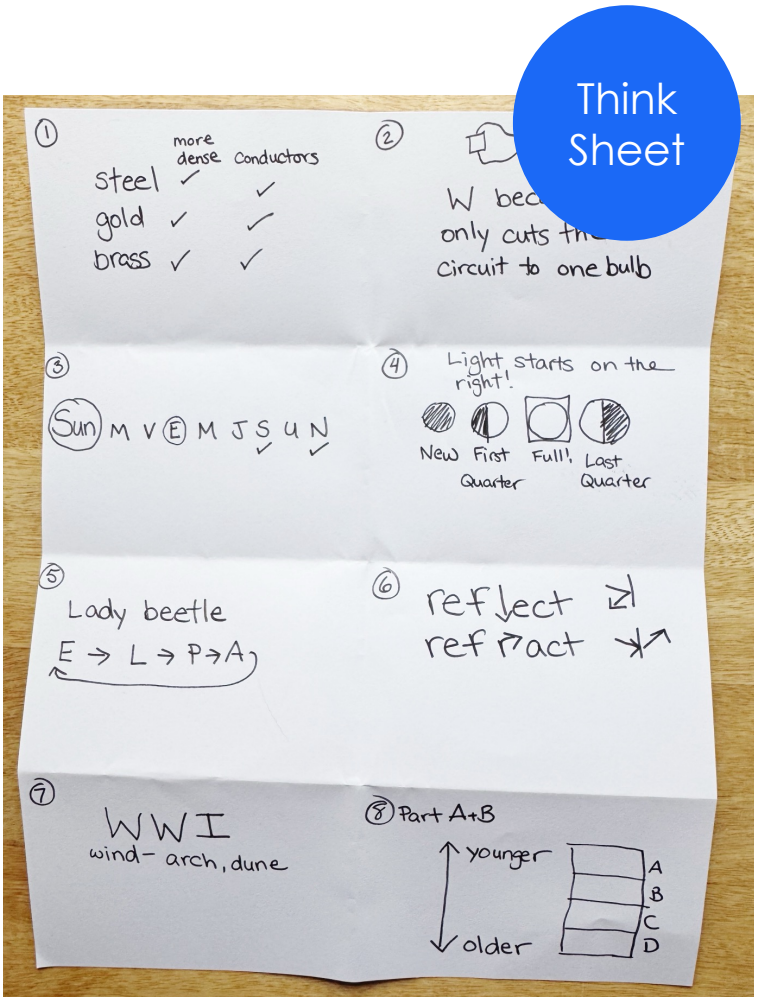
Each day includes:

- 4 multiple-choice questions
- 1 match table grid question
- 2 multiselect questions
- 1 multipart question (2 questions with 1 stimulus)
- 1 SCR question

As students answer the questions in Google Forms, I recommend having them complete a Think Sheet.

A Think Sheet is a sheet of paper folded into eighths on which students jot down notes to help answer the question.

A sample Think Sheet is shown on the right.



DETAILS AND VIDEO

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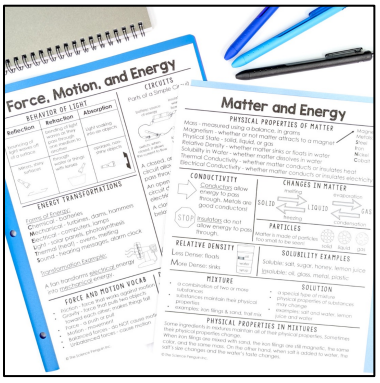
Day 1

Warm-up 25 minutes	**10 Days to Science STAAR Day 1** • Assign 10 Days to Science STAAR in Google Forms and have students complete their Think Sheets. See details on the previous page. • Go over the answers to clear up misconceptions.
Study Folder & **Review Activity** 45 minutes	**STAAR Study Folder and SCR Detectives** • Set up a STAAR Study Folder for each student. This is a reference tool and includes information that students should memorize. • SCR Detectives Day 1: Use the slides to teach students about SCR questions.  
Sorting Game 20 minutes	**Properties of Matter Sort** • Review the categories and model sorting 2 cards. • In teams, students read the cards one at a time and decide as a group where to place the card. Check the teams' work for accuracy or go over the answers as a whole class. • Using the same set of cards, play Sorting Relay or another game.

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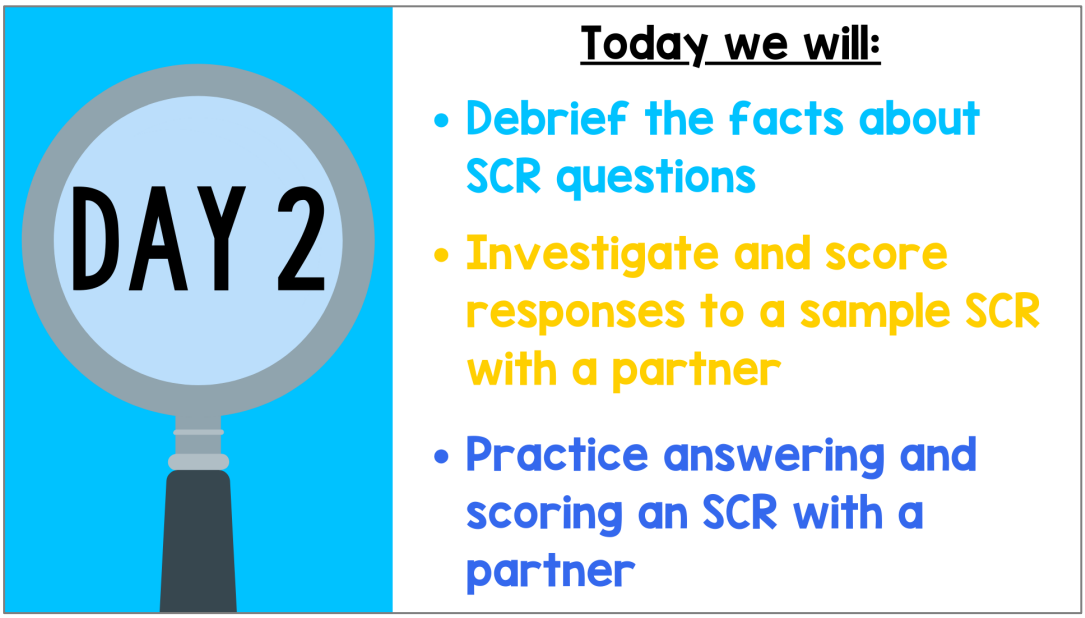
Day 2

Warm-up 25 minutes	**10 Days to Science STAAR Day 2** • Assign 10 Days to Science STAAR in Google Forms and have students complete their Think Sheets. • Go over the answers to clear up misconceptions.
Review Activity 45 minutes	**SCR Detectives Day 2** • Use the slides to teach students how to analyze and answer SCR questions. 
Sorting Game 20 minutes	**Solution or Not a Solution Sort** • Review the categories and model sorting 2 cards. • In teams, students read the cards one at a time and decide as a group where to place the card. Check the teams' work for accuracy or go over the answers as a whole class. • Using the same set of cards, play Sorting Relay or another game.

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Day 3

Warm-up 25 minutes	**10 Days to Science STAAR Day 3** • Assign 10 Days to Science STAAR in Google Forms and have students complete their Think Sheets. • Go over the answers to clear up misconceptions.
Review Activity 45 minutes	**SCR Detectives Day 3** • Use the slides to teach students how to analyze and answer SCR questions. 
Sorting Game 20 minutes	**Separating Mixtures Sort** • Review the categories and model sorting 2 cards. • In teams, students read the cards one at a time and decide as a group where to place the card. Check the teams' work for accuracy or go over the answers as a whole class. • Using the same set of cards, play Sorting Relay or another game.

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Day 4

Warm-up 25 minutes	**10 Days to Science STAAR Day 4** • Assign 10 Days to Science STAAR in Google Forms and have students complete their Think Sheets. • Go over the answers to clear up misconceptions.
Review Activity 45 minutes ***Free Download**	**Cluster Set Detectives** • Use the slides to teach students how to analyze and answer cluster question sets. 
Sorting Game 20 minutes	**Reflection or Refraction Sort** • Review the categories and model sorting 2 cards. • In teams, students read the cards one at a time and decide as a group where to place the card. Check the teams' work for accuracy or go over the answers as a whole class. • Using the same set of cards, play Sorting Relay or another game.

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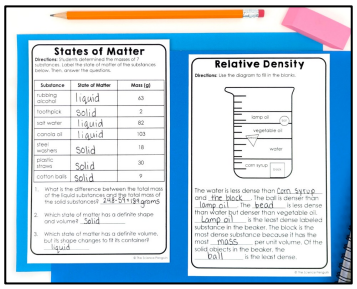
Day 5

Warm-up 25 minutes	**10 Days to Science STAAR Day 5** • Assign 10 Days to Science STAAR in Google Forms and have students complete their Think Sheets. • Go over the answers to clear up misconceptions.
Meets Activity **or** **Masters Activity** 45 minutes	**Meets: Physical Science Test Prep Printables** • Based on your students' data, print the Physical Science Test Prep Printables that students most need to review. I recommend choosing from Physical Properties of Matter, Mixtures, Separating Mixtures, Solutions, Conservation of Matter in Mixtures and Solutions, Force Investigations, Equal and Unequal Forces, Energy Transfer, Circuits, and Behavior of Light. • Students complete their printables. Go over the answers to clear up misconceptions.  **Masters: Visual Stimuli Test Prep Task Cards** Students working toward Masters on STAAR complete the task cards on paper or in Google Forms. Be sure to review the answers to clear up misconceptions.
Sorting Game 20 minutes	**Ice, Wind, or Water Sort (Slow Changes on Earth)** • Review the categories and model sorting 2 cards. • In teams, students read the cards one at a time and decide as a group where to place the card. Check the teams' work for accuracy. • Using the same set of cards, play Sorting Relay or another game.

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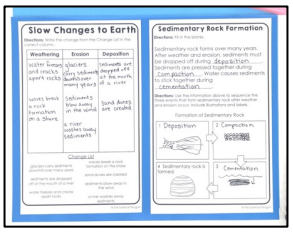
Day 6

Warm-up 25 minutes	**10 Days to Science STAAR Day 6** • Assign 10 Days to Science STAAR in Google Forms and have students complete their Think Sheets. • Go over the answers to clear up misconceptions.
Meets Activity **or** **Masters Activity** 45 minutes Today, there are different activities for students going for Meets vs. Masters on STAAR.	**Meets: Earth and Space Science Test Prep Printables** • Based on your students' data, print the Earth and Space Science Test Prep Printables that students most need to review. I recommend choosing from Day/Night Cycle, Sun's Apparent Movement & Shadows, Seasons, Moon Phases, Sedimentary Rock Formation, Fossil Fuel Formation, Landform Formation, Water Cycle, Slow Changes to Earth, Weather & Climate, and Natural Resources. • Students complete their printables. Go over the answers to clear up misconceptions.  **Masters: Data Analysis Test Prep Task Cards** Students working toward Masters on STAAR complete the task cards on paper or in Google Forms. Be sure to review the answers to clear up misconceptions.
Sorting Game 20 minutes	**Weather or Climate Sort** • Review the categories and model sorting 2 cards. • In teams, students read the cards one at a time and decide as a group where to place the card. Check the teams' work for accuracy. • Using the same set of cards, play Sorting Relay or another game.

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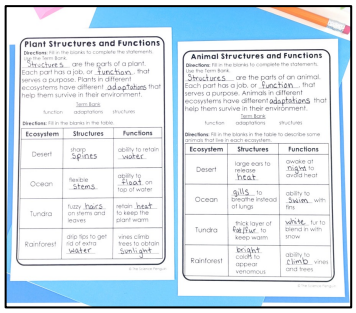
Day 7

Warm-up 25 minutes	**10 Days to Science STAAR Day 7** • Assign 10 Days to Science STAAR in Google Forms and have students complete their Think Sheets. • Go over the answers to clear up misconceptions.
Meets Activity **or** **Masters Activity** 45 minutes Today, there are different activities for students going for Meets vs. Masters on STAAR.	**Meets: Life Science Test Prep Printables** • Based on your students' data, print the Life Science Test Prep Printables that students most need to review. I recommend focusing on Biotic and Abiotic Factors, Classifying Ecosystem Interactions, Photosynthesis, Ecosystem Roles, Movement of Matter in Ecosystems, Food Chains, Food Webs, Plant Structures and Functions, and Animal Structures and Functions. • Students complete their printables. Go over the answers to clear up misconceptions.  **Masters: Silly Alien Test Prep Task Cards** Students working toward Masters on STAAR complete the task cards on paper or in Google Forms. Be sure to review the answers to clear up misconceptions.
Sorting Game 20 minutes	**Renewable or Non-renewable Resources Sort** • Review the categories and model sorting 2 cards. • In teams, students read the cards one at a time and decide as a group where to place the card. Check the teams' work for accuracy. • Using the same set of cards, play Sorting Relay or another game.

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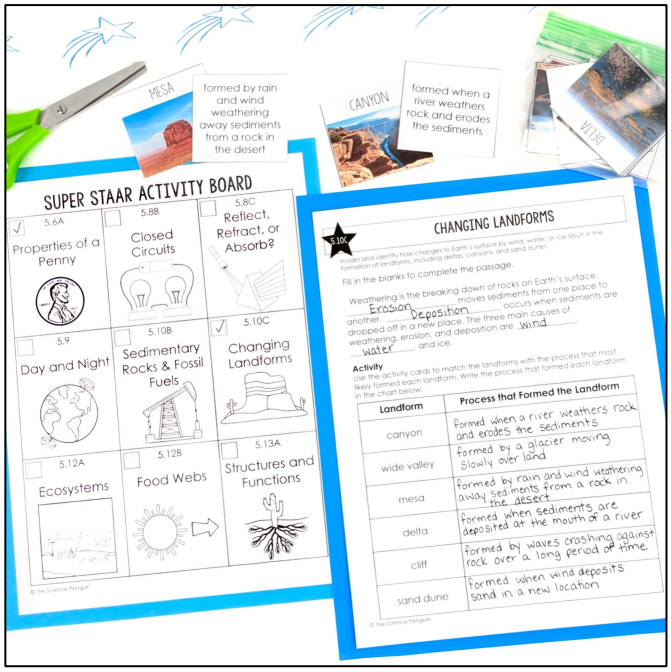
Day 8

Warm-up 25 minutes	**10 Days to Science STAAR Day 8** • Assign 10 Days to Science STAAR in Google Forms and have students complete their Think Sheets. • Go over the answers to clear up misconceptions.
Review Activity 45 minutes Today, there are different activities for students going for Meets vs. Masters on STAAR.	**Super STAAR Activity Board** • Review the directions and start working through the nine activities. 
Sorting Game 20 minutes	**Water Cycle Sort** • Review the categories and model sorting 2 cards. • In teams, students read the cards one at a time and decide as a group where to place the card. Check the teams' work for accuracy. • Using the same set of cards, play Sorting Relay or another game.

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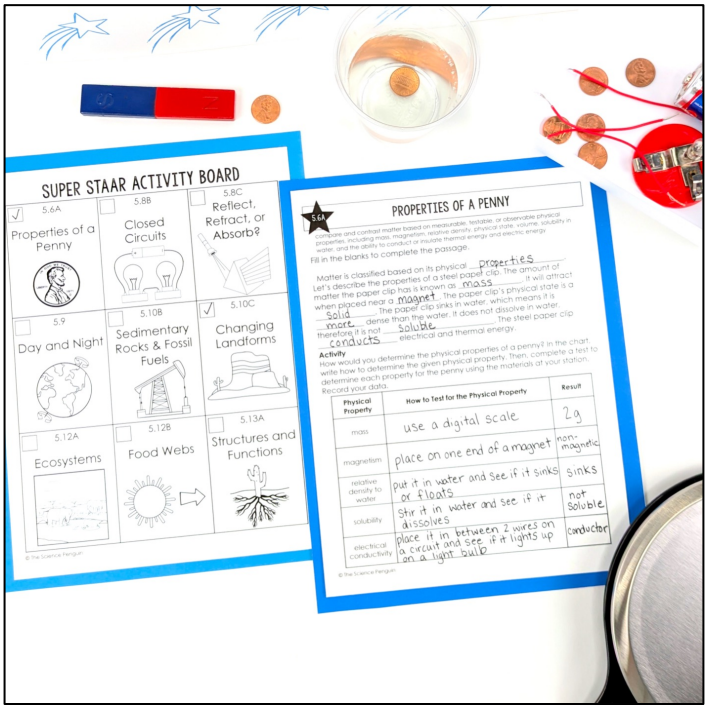
Day 9

Warm-up 25 minutes	**10 Days to Science STAAR Day 9** • Assign 10 Days to Science STAAR in Google Forms and have students complete their Think Sheets. • Go over the answers to clear up misconceptions.
Review Activity 45 minutes	**Super STAAR Activity Board** • Continue working through the nine activities. 
Sorting Game 20 minutes ***Free Download**	**Ecosystem Interactions Sort** • Review the categories and model sorting 2 cards. • In teams, students read the cards one at a time and decide as a group where to place the card. Check the teams' work for accuracy. • Using the same set of cards, play Sorting Relay or another game.

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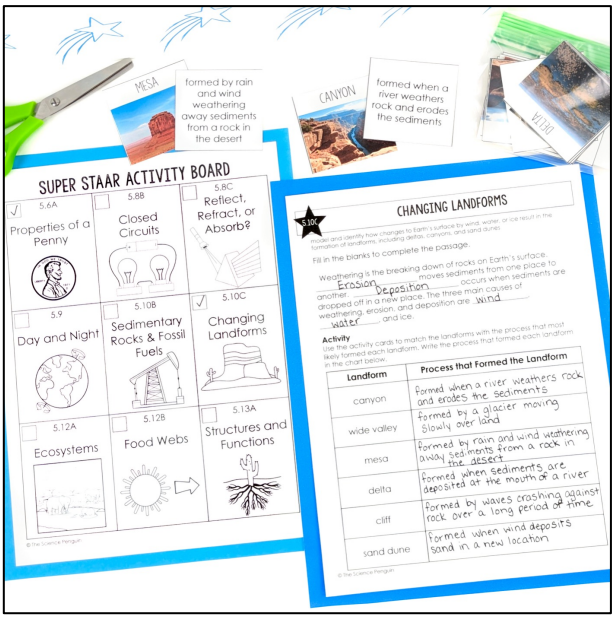
Day 10

Warm-up 25 minutes	**10 Days to Science STAAR Day 10** • Assign 10 Days to Science STAAR in Google Forms and have students complete their Think Sheets. • Go over the answers to clear up misconceptions.
Review Activity 45 minutes	**Super STAAR Activity Board** • Finish working through the nine activities. Students can study their STAAR Review Folders when they are done. Go over the answers. 
Sorting Game 20 minutes	**Producer, Consumer, or Decomposer Sort** • Review the categories and model sorting 2 cards. • In teams, students read the cards one at a time and decide as a group where to place the card. Check the teams' work for accuracy. • Using the same set of cards, play Sorting Relay or another game.

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