M/J Life Science delivers instruction, practice, and review to help students develop scientific literacy, deepen conceptual understanding, and apply scientific practices. Students explore concepts including the relationship between structure and function, the flow of energy and matter through living systems, heredity, and the diversity of life.

The two-semester course is arranged in themed units, each with two to three lessons. In each unit, activities make complex ideas accessible to students as they discover the nature of science through focused content, interactive mini-investigations, multi-modal representations, and personalized feedback. Each lesson includes a variety of activities such as direct instruction, application of skills, performance tasks, and formative and summative assessments. Students engage with the subject matter in an interactive, feedback-rich environment as they progress through standards-aligned content and demonstrate their learning through computer- and teacher-scored assignments.

This course is built to state standards.

Length: Two Semesters

Unit 1: Science and Engineering

- Introduction to Science
- Scientific Investigations
- What Is Engineering?
- Wrap-Up: Science and Engineering

Unit 2: Tools of Inquiry

- Using Models
- Measurement and Tools
- Interpreting and Displaying Data
- Wrap-Up: Tools of Inquiry

Unit 3: Nature of Life

- Characteristics of Living Things
- Chemistry of Life
- Wrap-Up: Nature of Life

Unit 4: Cells

- The Structure of Cells
- Cell Nutrition and Transport
- Wrap-Up: Cells

Unit 5: Genetics

- Inheritance
- Genes and DNA

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- Biotechnology
- Wrap-Up: Genetics

Unit 6: Diversity of Life

- Domains and Kingdoms of Life
- Classification of Living Things
- Wrap-Up: Diversity of Life

Unit 7: Semester Wrap-Up

Unit 8: Multicellular Bodies

- Specialized Cells and Tissues
- Organs and Organ Systems
- Wrap-Up: Multicellular Bodies

Unit 9: The Human Body

- Human Body Systems
- Human Health and Disease
- Wrap-Up: The Human Body

Unit 10: Reproduction

- Cell Growth and Reproduction
- Patterns of Reproduction
- Wrap-Up: Reproduction

Unit 11: Ecology

- Ecosystem Characteristics
- Matter and Energy in Ecosystems
- Wrap-Up: Ecology

Unit 12: Evolution

- Theory of Evolution
- Natural Selection
- Wrap-Up: Evolution

Unit 13: Semester Wrap-Up

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