

### What is 3-Dimensional Learning?

Phenomena, Questions, and Models

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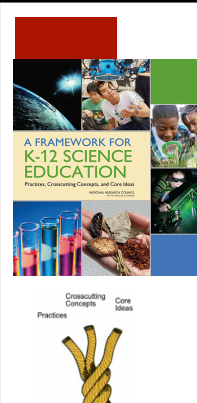
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The *Framework* supports our understanding that students are **born investigators** who acquire knowledge by integrating **scientific and engineering practices, cross-cutting concepts, with core scientific ideas.**

This **integration** provides a foundation for applying literacy and mathematical reasoning to answer questions about natural phenomena that are experienced.

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### Dimension 1: Scientific and Engineering Practices

1. Asking questions (science) and defining problems (engineering)
2. Developing and using models
3. Planning and carrying out investigations
4. Analyzing and interpreting data
5. Using mathematics and computational thinking
6. Constructing explanations (science) and designing solutions (engineering)
7. Engaging in argument from evidence
8. Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information

*Multiple ways of knowing and doing that scientists and engineers use to study the natural world and design world. The practices work together – they are not separated.*

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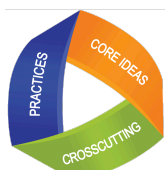
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## Dimension 2: Crosscutting Concepts

1. Patterns
2. Cause and effect
3. Scale, proportion, and quantity
4. Systems and system models
5. Energy and matter
6. Structure and function
7. Stability and change

*These are ideas that cut across and are important to all the science disciplines*




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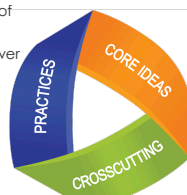
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## Dimension 3 – Disciplinary Core Ideas

- Physical Sciences
- Life Sciences
- Earth & Space Sciences
- Engineering, Technology and Applications of Science

Disciplinary Significance with Explanatory Power  
Generative  
Relevant to Peoples' Lives  
Useable from K-12




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## An Analogy between 3-Dimensional Learning and Cooking



Kitchen Tools & Techniques  
(Practices)



Basic Ingredients  
(Core Ideas)



Vegetables, Herbs,  
Spices, &  
Seasonings  
(Crosscutting Concepts)



Preparing a Meal  
(Three dimensional Learning)

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## Using Phenomena in NGSS-Designed Lessons and Units

**WHAT ARE PHENOMENA IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING?**

- Natural phenomena are observable events that occur in the universe and that we can use our science knowledge to explain or predict. The goal of building knowledge in science is to develop general ideas, based on evidence, that can explain and predict phenomena.
- Engineering involves designing solutions to problems that arise from phenomena, and using explanations of phenomena to design solutions.
- In this way, phenomena are the context for the work of both the scientist and the engineer.

**WHY ARE PHENOMENA SUCH A BIG DEAL?**

- Despite their centrality in science and engineering, phenomena have traditionally been a missing piece in science education, which has often been focused on teaching general knowledge that students can have difficulty applying to real-world contexts.
- Anchoring learning to explaining phenomena supports student agency for wanting to build science and engineering knowledge. Students are able to identify an answer to "why do I need to learn this?" before they even know what the "this" is. In contrast, students might not understand the importance of learning science ideas that teachers and curriculum designers know are important but that are disconnected from phenomena.
- By centering science education on phenomena that students are motivated to explain, the focus of learning shifts from learning about a topic to *figuring out* why or how something happens. For example, instead of simply learning about the topics of photosynthesis and mitosis, students are engaged in building evidence-based explanatory ideas that help them figure out how a tree grows.
- Explaining phenomena and designing solutions to problems allow students to build general science ideas in the context of their applications to understanding phenomena in the real world, leading to deeper and more transferable knowledge.
- Students who come to see how science ideas can help explain and model phenomena related to compelling real-world situations learn to appreciate the social relevance of science. They get interested in and identify with science as a way of understanding and improving real-world contexts. Focusing investigations on compelling phenomena can help sustain students' science learning.

**HOW ARE PHENOMENA RELATED TO THE NGSS AND OTHER SCIENCE EDUCATION STANDARDS?**

- The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) focus on helping students use science to make sense of phenomena in the natural and designed worlds, and on engineering to solve problems.
- Learning to explain phenomena and solve problems is the central reason students engage in the three dimensions of the NGSS. Students explain phenomena by developing and applying the Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCI) and Crosscutting Concepts (CCC) through use of the Science and Engineering Practices (SEP).
- Phenomena-centered classrooms also give students and teachers a context in which to monitor ongoing progress toward understanding all three dimensions. As students work toward being

Adapted from the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) by the National Research Council of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. © 2013. All rights reserved. For more information, visit [www.nap.edu/catalog/13166](http://www.nap.edu/catalog/13166).

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## Final Word (Jerome Harste, Indiana University)

- Once everyone is finished reading, underlining, or highlighting, one person goes first and reads one of their statements without adding any additional comments.
- The person sitting to their right then makes a comment about the statement that the first person read while other group members listen quietly.
- Once the second person has commented, the process proceeds around the group until it gets back to the person who read the original statement.
- The original person then says what they want about the statement and comments (the final word) on what they heard from the other group members.

The process repeats with the second person and so on until everyone in the group has had a "final word".

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## Criteria for Phenomena

- The phenomenon...
  - address the targeted DCI
  - is observable to students, either through firsthand experiences or through someone else's experiences (recording or measurements)
  - is likely to be comprehensible to students
  - is attention-getting thought provoking, and requires some explanations so that it is likely to engage all students and motivate them to focus on the DCI
  - is efficient in that the benefits justify any financial costs and time devoted to using the phenomenon with students

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## Anchor Phenomena



Instructional sequences are more coherent when students investigate compelling natural phenomena (in science) or work on meaningful design problems (in engineering) by engaging in the science and engineering practices. We refer to these phenomena and design problems here as "anchors."

- ☐ A good anchor builds upon everyday or family experiences; who students are, what they do, where they came from. It is important that it is compelling to students from non-dominant communities (e.g., English language learners, students from cultural groups underrepresented in STEM, etc.).
- ☐ A good anchor will require students to develop understanding of and apply multiple NGSS performance expectations while also engaging in related acts of mathematics, reading, writing, and communication.
- ☐ A good anchor is *non-confusing* for students; it provides an *action* for students to follow a simple lesson.

☐ The explanation is just beyond the reach of what students can figure out without instruction.

□ A good anchor is observable to students. Observable can be with the aid of scientific procedures (e.g., in the lab) or technological devices to see things at very large and very small scales (telescopes, microscopes), video presentations, demonstrations, or surface patterns in data.

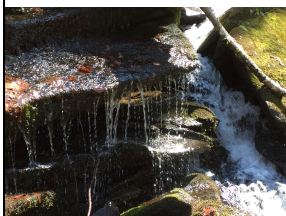
- ☐ A good anchor can be a case (pine beetle infestation, building a solution to a problem) or something that is puzzling (why isn't rainwater salty?) or a wonderment (how did the solar system form?).
- ☐ A good anchor has relevant data, images, and text to engage students in the range of ideas students

need to understand. It should allow them to use a broad sequence of science and engineering practices to learn science through first-hand or second-hand investigations.

☐ A good anchor has an audience or stakeholder community that cares about the findings or products.

STEM Teaching Tools created copyright 2020 UNH Institute for Science + Math Education (HIGS) and awarded / Funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). Openness expressed across <https://www.fundingagency>

## Examples





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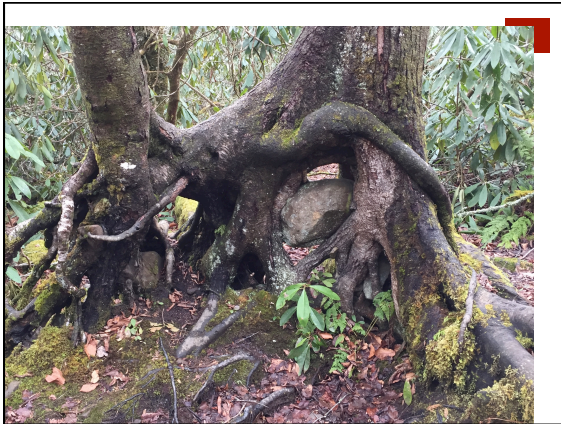
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## The Power of Phenomena

- Teachers can provide students with a **shared experience** by using a **common phenomena**.
- These phenomena can be used to develop questions, create models (and use other SEPs), and develop new understandings about DCIs as part of a meaningful cycle.
- "They can act as a starting place for instruction, act as a springboard for curiosity, and ground instructional sequences. But, they can only do this if we harness the wonder in specific ways by asking questions." A. Beauchamp

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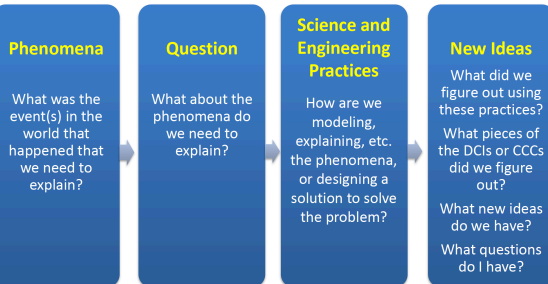
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## A Sequence to Promote Sense Making




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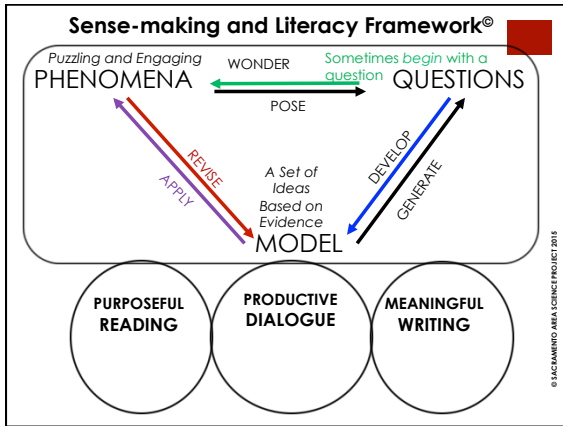
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Let's Start with a Shared Phenomena

A photograph of a total solar eclipse, showing the sun's corona as a bright, glowing ring around the dark silhouette of the moon. A small red square is in the top right corner.

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About the solar eclipse. We might wonder...

- What causes the solar eclipse?
- Why don't we see it at all locations on the Earth at the same time?
- Why don't they occur more often?
- Etc.
- What other questions can you think of?

A small thumbnail image of a solar eclipse is located to the left of the list. A red square is in the top left corner.

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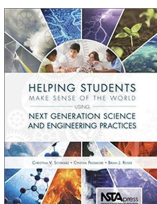
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## Key Features of the "Asking Questions" Practice

- Questioning involves developing and revising explanatory questions about how and why phenomena happen.
- Both teachers and students are critical players in asking productive questions.
- Questioning helps identify what about the phenomena needs to be investigated.

*Helping Students Make Sense of the World Using Next Generation Science and Engineering Practices. NSTA Press, 2017*




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## How can we help students develop questions?

- The Right Question Institute - Question Formulation Technique – QFT
  - <http://rightquestion.org/education/>
- 5 Whys
- Wait, What? And Life's Other Essential Questions

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## Question Formulation Technique

- Use a Focus or Question Focus
- Produce your questions
- Improve your questions
- Prioritize your questions
- Discuss next steps
- Reflect

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## 5 Whys

- 5 Whys – an interactive interrogative technique for exploring the cause and effect relationships underlying problems or phenomena.
- By repeating the question "Why?" each question forms the basis of the next question.
- Example:
  - 1. Why did this phenomenon occur? Try out the 5 Whys with the Solar Eclipse. Record the questions that you come up with.




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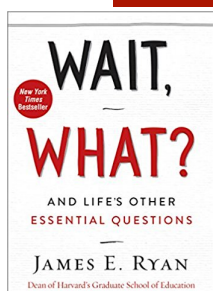
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## Wait, What?

- By James Ryan
- 1. Wait, What?
- 2. I wonder...
- 3. Couldn't we at least...
- 4. How can I help?
- 5. What truly matters?




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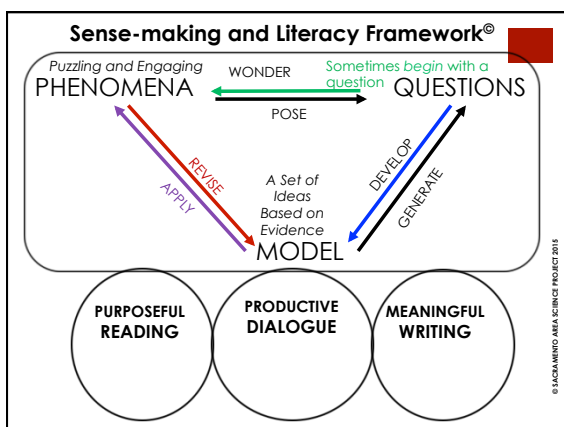
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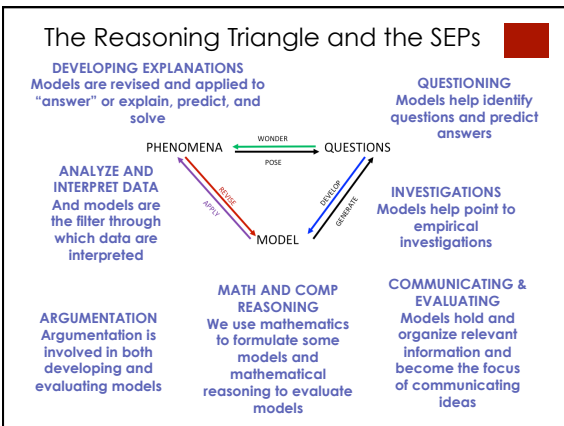
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## The Framework Says

Models serve the purpose of being a tool for thinking with, making predictions and making sense of experience." And further "scientists use models...to represent their current understanding of a system under study, to aid in the development of questions and explanations, and to communicate ideas to others." (NRC, 2011)



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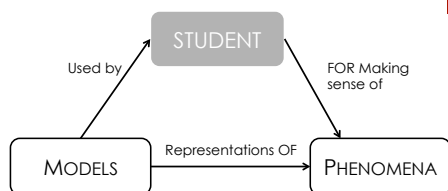
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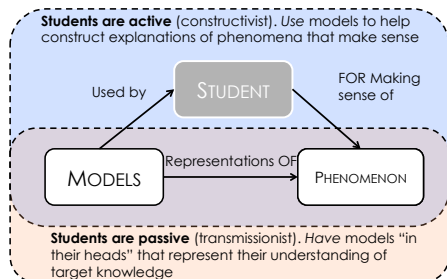
## More Shift



The OF/FOR Distinction

Shift from Dyadic to Triadic (Knuuttila, 2005)

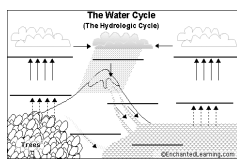
## A shift in the instructional paradigm



How '**MODELS FOR**' helps us think about these?

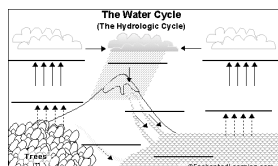
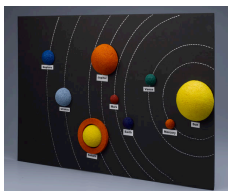


$$Q = m c \Delta T$$





Try out '**MODELS FOR**' on these two  
(hint: think about the PHENOMENA and QUESTIONS)




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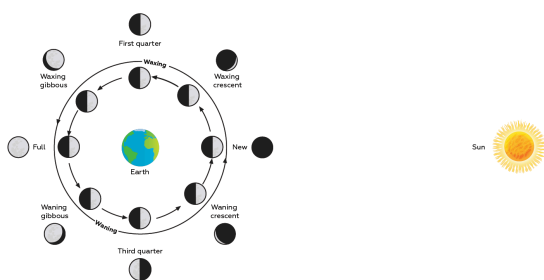
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A diagram of the Moon phases in relation to the Sun and Earth




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## Eclipse Reading Partner A & B read

- In A-B pairs, A Starts – read a paragraph aloud.
- Partner B listens and paraphrases the meaning.
- Partner A then shares a connection he/she can make with the text.
- Next paragraph – switch roles.
- Continue until the entire reading is complete.

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## Think-Pair-Share Model for Eclipse

- Based on your observations, reading, and thinking about eclipses – compare and contrast solar and lunar eclipses.
- Create a labeled drawing(s) that represents your understanding of solar and lunar eclipses.

**Think** – my thoughts or understanding at this time.

**Pair** – what I understand my partner is telling me.

**Share** – Our common understanding after talking, what we can share with others or what was most important from our dialogue.

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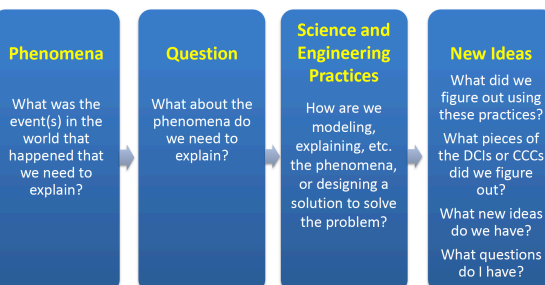
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## A Sequence to Promote Sense Making




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## Reflect

- What Science and Engineering Practices did we specifically use during our exploration of eclipses?
- Crosscutting Concepts?
- Disciplinary Core Ideas?
- How did we use
  - Purposeful Reading
  - Productive Dialogue, and
  - Meaningful Writing?

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