

Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP)
Performance Level Descriptors
Grade 5 Science

Reporting Category	Does Not Meet Proficiency <i>A student performing at this level demonstrates knowledge and skills related to the Virginia Essentialized Standards of Learning that do not meet proficiency:</i>	Proficient <i>A student performing at this level demonstrates knowledge and skills related to the Virginia Essentialized Standards of Learning that meet proficiency:</i>	Advanced <i>A student performing at this level demonstrates knowledge and skills related to the Virginia Essentialized Standards of Learning that exceed proficiency:</i>
Living Systems and Ecosystem Interactions	The student may be able to correctly recognize: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a plant, • an animal, or • something that a plant or animal needs to survive. 	The student correctly recognizes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plants need light, air, and water to grow and survive, • animals need food, air, and water to grow and survive, and • plants and animals have unique structures that help them obtain what they need to grow and survive. 	The student correctly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • compares the growth of plants when given different amounts of light, air, and water, and • identifies and connects the unique parts and structures of plants and animals to ways in which they help them grow and survive.
	The student may be able to correctly recognize a living and/or non-living part of an ecosystem.	The student correctly recognizes some ways in which living organisms interact with other living organisms and non-living parts of an ecosystem.	The student correctly recognizes many ways in which living organisms interact with other living organisms and non-living parts of an ecosystem.
	The student may be able to correctly recognize an ocean.	The student correctly recognizes oceans and identifies some of the organisms that live in them.	The student correctly recognizes oceans and identifies many of the organisms that live in them.

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Earth/Space Systems and Earth Resources	The student may be able to correctly recognize a simple weather condition.	The student correctly recognizes some weather conditions and their characteristics.	The student correctly recognizes many complex weather conditions and their characteristics.
	The student may be able to correctly recognize the sun and/or Earth.	The student correctly recognizes some astronomical objects in the solar system and compares their features (e.g., sun, planets, moons).	The student correctly recognizes many astronomical objects in the solar system and compares their features (e.g., sun, planets, moons).
	The student may be able to correctly recognize the moon in different phases.	The student correctly recognizes some relationships among Earth, the moon, and the sun.	The student correctly recognizes many relationships among Earth, the moon, and the sun, including the concepts of orbit and revolution.
	The student may be able to correctly recognize day and/or night.	The student correctly recognizes that the sun provides Earth with light and heat energy.	The student correctly recognizes that the sun's light and heat energy influence Earth's organisms and the four major seasons.
	The student may be able to correctly recognize a natural resource used in everyday life.	The student correctly recognizes some natural resources in Virginia and their common uses and origins.	The student correctly recognizes many natural resources in Virginia and their common uses and origins.
	The student may be able to correctly recognize a common non-living Earth feature (e.g., lakes, rivers, streams, and oceans; rocks, mountains, volcanoes, and canyons; air and clouds).	The student correctly recognizes some common living and non-living Earth features and simple interactions (e.g., clouds provide rain to rivers; rivers provide water to organisms).	The student correctly recognizes many common living and non-living Earth features, simple interactions, and processes that shape Earth.
	The student may be able to correctly recognize an activity that harms Earth.	The student correctly recognizes some ways in which people and communities protect/conserves Earth's environment and natural resources.	The student correctly recognizes many ways in which people and communities protect/conserves Earth's environment and natural resources.

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Force, Motion, Energy, and Matter	The student may be able to correctly recognize a common object at rest and/or in motion.	The student correctly recognizes some objects in motion and changes in motion due to force.	The student correctly identifies many objects in motion and changes in motion due to force.
	The student may be able to correctly recognize a common object that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses electricity, • makes noise or sound, or • makes light. 	The student correctly recognizes the following forms of energy and some of their everyday uses, applications, and sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • electricity, • sound, and • light. 	The student correctly recognizes the following forms of energy and many of their everyday uses, applications, and sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • electricity, • sound, and • light.
	The student may be able to correctly recognize a smaller part of a common object, animal, and/or plant.	The student correctly recognizes that objects, animals, and plants are made of smaller parts and identifies some parts visible to the naked eye.	The student correctly recognizes that objects, animals, and plants are made of smaller parts and identifies many parts visible to the naked eye.
	The student may be able to correctly recognize when two common solids are mixed.	The student correctly recognizes when some substances are mixed.	The student correctly recognizes when many substances are mixed, including some mixtures that may form new substances.
	The student may be able to correctly recognize physical properties (i.e., size and shape) of common objects.	The student correctly recognizes and compares some physical properties (e.g., size, shape, hardness/softness, weight/mass, volume) of matter in different phases.	The student correctly recognizes and compares many physical properties of matter in different phases.