

**New Mexico Science Content Standards, Benchmarks, and Performance Standards  
Strands and Benchmarks**

**Kindergarten – 4th Grade**

**Strand I: Scientific Thinking and Practice**

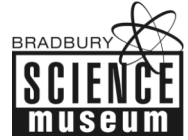
**Standard I:** Understand the processes of scientific investigations and use inquiry and scientific ways of observing, experimenting, predicting, and validating to think critically.

**K-4 Benchmark I:** Use scientific methods to observe, collect, record, analyze, predict, interpret, and determine reasonableness of data.

**Grade            Performance Standards**

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| <b>K</b> | Use observation and questioning skills in science inquiry.<br>Ask and answer questions about surroundings and share findings with classmates.<br>Record observations and data with pictures, numbers, and/or symbols.                                      |
| <b>1</b> | Make observations, develop simple questions, and make comparisons of familiar situations.  |
| <b>2</b> | Use tools to provide information not directly found through the senses.<br>Make predictions based on observed patterns as opposed to random guessing.  |
| <b>3</b> | Make new observations when discrepancies exist between two descriptions of the same object or phenomenon to improve accuracy.  |
| <b>4</b> | Use instruments to perform investigations and communicate findings.<br>Differentiate observation from interpretation and understand that a scientific explanation comes in part from what is observed and in part from how the observation is interpreted. |

**K-4 Benchmark II:** Use scientific thinking and knowledge and communicate findings.



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**5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Strand I: Scientific Thinking and Practice**

**Standard I:** Understand the processes of scientific investigations and use inquiry and scientific ways of observing, experimenting, predicting, and validating to think critically.

**5-8 Benchmark I:** Use scientific methods to develop questions, design and conduct experiments using appropriate technologies, analyze and evaluate results, make predictions, and communicate findings.

**Grade            Performance Standards**

**5**            Use appropriate technologies to perform scientific tests and to collect and display data.

**8**            Use a variety of technologies to gather, analyze and interpret scientific data.

**5-8 Benchmark II:** Understand the processes of scientific investigation and how scientific inquiry results in scientific knowledge.

**Strand II: Content of Science**

**Standard II:** Understand the properties, structures, and processes of living things and the interdependence of living things and their environments.

**5-8 Benchmark III:** Understand the structure of organisms and the function of cells in living systems.

**5**            Understand that all living organisms are composed of cells from one to many trillions, and that cells are usually only visible through a microscope.