

CLASS VIII Science					
Questions	Key Concepts	Resources	Activities/ Processes		
1. Food Crop production Crop production: How are different food crops produced? What are the various foods we get from animal sources?	Crop production: Soil preparation, selection of seeds, sowing, applying fertilizers, irrigation, weeding, harvesting and storage; nitrogen fixation, nitrogen cycle.	Interaction and discussion with local men and women farmers about farming and farm practices; visit to cold storage, go- downs; visit to any farm/ nursery/ garden.	(Periods - 22) Preparing herbarium specimens of some crop plants; collection of some seeds etc; preparing a table/chart on different irrigation practices and sources of water in different parts of India; looking at roots of any legume crop for nodules, hand section of nodules.		
<i>Micro-organisms</i> What living organisms do we see under a microscope in a drop of water? What helps make curd? How does food go bad? How do we preserve food?	Micro organisms – useful and harmful.	Microscope, kit materials; information about techniques of food preservation.	Making a lens with a bulb; Observation of drop of water, curd, other sources, bread mould, orange mould under the microscope; experiment showing fermentation of dough – increase in volume (using yeast) – collect gas in balloon, test in lime water.		
2. Materials Materials in daily life Are some of our clothes synthetic? How are they made? Where do the raw materials come from?	Synthetic clothing materials. Other synthetic materials, especially plastics;	Sharing of prior knowledge, source materials on petroleum products.	(Periods - 26) Survey on use of synthetic materials. Discussion.		

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Do we use other materials that are synthetic?	usefulness of plastics and problems associated with their excessive use.		
Do we use cloth (fabric) for purposes other than making clothes to wear? What kind of fabric do we see around us? What are they used for?	There are a variety of fibrous materials in use. A material is chosen based on desired property.	Collection of material from neighbourhood or should be part of the kit.	Testing various materials – for action of water, reaction on heating, effect of flame, electrical conductivity, thermal conductivity, tensile strength.
Different kinds of materials and their reactions.			
Can a wire be drawn out of wood? Do copper or aluminium also rust like iron? What is the black material inside a pencil? Why are electrical wires made of aluminium or copper?	Metals and non-metals.	Kit items.	Simple observations relating to physical properties of metals and non-metals, displacement reactions, experiments involving reactions with acids and bases. Introduction of word equations.
How things change/ react with one another What happens to the wax when a candle is burnt? Is it possible to get this wax back?	Combustion, flame	"The Chemical History of a Candle", by M. Faraday, 1860.	Experiments with candles.
What happens to kerosene/natural gas when it is burnt? Which fuel is the best? Why?	All fuels release heat on burning. Fuels differ in efficiency, cost etc. Natural resources are limited. Burning of fuels leads to harmful by products.	Collecting information from home and other sources.	Collecting information. Discussions involving whole class.

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3. The World of the Living			(Periods - 44)
Why conserve What are reserve forests/ sanctuaries etc? How do we keep track of our plants and animals? How do we know that some species are in danger of disappearing? What would happen if you continuously cut trees?	Conservation of biodiversity/wild life/ plants; zoos, sanctuaries, forest reserves etc. flora, fauna endangered species, red data book; endemic species, migration.	Films on wild life, TV programmes, visit to zoo/ forest area/sanctuaries etc.; case study with information on dis- appearing tigers; data on endemic and endangered species from MEF, Govt. of India, NGOs .	Discussion on whether we find as many diverse plants/ animals in a 'well kept area' like a park or cultivated land, as compared to any area left alone. Discussion on depletion of wild life, why it happens, on poaching, economics.
The cell What is the internal structure of a plant – what will we see if we look under the microscope? Which cells from our bodies can be easily seen? Are all cells similar?	Cell structure, plant and animal cells, use of stain to observe, cell organelles – nucleus, vacuole, chloroplast, cell membrane, cell wall.	Microscope, onion peels, epidermal peels of any leaves, petals etc, buccal cavity cells, <i>Spirogyra</i> ; permanent slides of animal cells.	Use of a microscope, preparation of a slide, observation of onion peel and cheek cells, other cells from plants e.g. <i>Hydrilla</i> leaf, permanent slides showing different cells, tissues, blood smear; observation of T.S. stem to see tissues; observing diverse types of cells from plants and animals (some permanent slides).
How babies are formed How do babies develop inside the mother? Why does our body change when we reach our teens? How is the sex of the child determined? Who looks after the babies in your homes? Do all	Sexual reproduction and endocrine system in animals, secondary sexual characters, reproductive health; internal and external fertilisation.	Counsellors, films, lectures.	Discussion with counsellors on secondary sexual characters, on how sex of the child is determined, safe sex, reproductive health; observation on eggs, young ones, life cycles.

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animals give birth to young ones?			Discussion on Gender issues and social taboo's.
4. Moving things,			
People and Ideas			
Idea of force			
What happens when we	Idea of force-push or	Daily-life experience, kit	Observing and analysin
push or pull anything?	pull; change in speed,	items.	the relation between force
How can we change the	direction of moving		and motion in a variety of
speed, direction of a	objects and shape of		daily-life situations.
moving object?	objects by applying force;		Demonstrating change i
How can we shape the	contact and non-contact		speed of a moving objec
shape of an object?	forces.		its direction of motion an
			shape by applying force
			Measuring the weight of
			an object, as a force (pu
			by the earth using a sprir
y			balance.
Friction			
What makes a ball rolling	Friction – factors affecting	Various rough and	Demonstrating frictio
on the ground slow	friction, sliding and rolling	smooth surfaces, ball	between rough/smoot
down?	friction, moving;	bearings.	surfaces of movin
	advantages and		objects in contact, an
	disadvantages of friction		wear and tear of movin
	for the movement of		objects by rubbing (erase
	automobiles, airplanes		on paper, card board
	and boats/ships;		sand paper).
	increasing and reducing		Activities on static, slidir
	friction.		and rolling friction.
			Studying ball bearings. Discussion on othe
			methods of reducin
			friction and ways o
			increasing friction.

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Pressure			
Why are needles made	Idea of pressure; pressure	Daily-life experiences;	Observing the dependence
ointed? Why does a	exerted by air/liquid;	Experimentation-	of pressure exerted by a
alloon burst if too much	atmospheric pressure.	improvised manometer	force on surface area of an
ir is blown into it? Why		and improvised pressure	object.
oes an inverted glass/		detector.	Demonstrating that air
ottle/pitcher resist being			exerts pressure in a variety
ushed down into water?			of situations.
Iow can air/liquids exert ressure?			Demonstrating that liquids exert pressure.
ressure:			Designing an improvised
			manometer and measuring
			pressure exerted by liquids.
			Designing improvised
			pressure detector and
			demonstrating increase in
			pressure exerted by a liquid
			at greater depths.
Sound			
low do we communicate	Various types of sound;	Daily-life experiences; kit	Demonstrating and
nrough sound? How is	sources of sound;	items; musical instruments.	distinguishing different
ound produced? What	vibration as a cause of		types (loud and feeble,
haracterises different	sound; frequency;		pleasant/ musical and
ounds?	medium for propagation		unpleasant / noise, audible
	of sound; idea of noise		and inaudible) of sound.
	as unpleasant and unwanted sound and need		Producing different types of sounds. using the same
	to minimise noise.		source. Making a 'Jal
	to minimise noise.		Tarang'. Demonstrating
			that vibration is the cause
			of sound.
			Designing a toy telephone.
			Identifying various sources
			of noise. (unpleasant and
			unwanted sound) in the

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			locality and thinking of measures to minimise noise and its hazards (noise-pollution).
5. How Things Work Electric current and circuits			(Periods - 14)
Why do we get a shock when we touch an electric appliance with wet hands?	Water conducts electricity depending on presence/ absence of salt in it. Other liquids may or may not conduct electricity.	Rubber cap, pins, water, bulb or LED, cells, various liquids.	Activity to study whether current flows through various liquid samples (tap water, salt solution, lemon juice, kerosene, distilled water if available).
What happens to a conducting solution when electric current flows through it?	Chemical effects of current.	Carbon rods, beaker, water, bulb, battery.	Emission of gases from salt solution. Deposition of Cu from copper sulphate solution. Electric pen using KI and starch solution.
How can we coat an object with a layer of metal?	Basic idea of electroplating.	Improvised electrolytical cell, CuSO ₄	Simple experiment to show electroplating.
6. Natural Phenomena Rain, thunder and lightning			(Periods - 26)
What is lightning? What safety measures should we take against lightning strikes?	Clouds carry electric charge. Positive and negative charges, attraction and repulsion. Principle of lightning conductor.	Articles on clouds and lightning; kit items.	Discussion on sparks Experiments with comb and paper to show positive and negative charge. Discussion on lightning conductor.
<i>Light</i> What are the differences	Laws of reflection.	Mirror, source of light,	Exploring laws of

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between the images formed on a new utensil and an old one? Why is there this difference?		ray source (mirror covered with black paper with a thin slit).	reflection using ray source and another mirror.	
When you see your image in the mirror it appears as if the left is on the right – why?	Characteristics of image formed with a plane mirror.	Plane glass, candle, scale.	Locating the reflected image using glass sheet and candles.	
Why don't we see images on all surfaces around us? What makes things visible?	Regular and diffused reflection. Reflection of light from an object to the eye.	Experience.	Discussion with various examples. Activity of observing an object through an object	
How do we see images of our back in a mirror?	Multiple reflection.	Mirrors and objects to be seen.	through a straight and bent tube; and discussion. Observing multiple images formed by mirrors placed at angles to each	
Why do we sometimes see colours on oil films on water?	Dispersion of light.	Plane mirror, water.	other. Making a kaleidoscope. Observing spectrum obtained on a white sheet of paper/wall using a plane mirror inclined on a	
What is inside our eye that enables us to see?	Structure of the eye.	Model or chart of the human eye.	water surface at an angle of 45°. Observing reaction of pupil to a shining torch. Demonstration of blind	
Why are some people unable to see?	Lens becomes opaque, light not reaching the eye. Visually challenged use other senses to make sense of the world around.	Experiences of children; case histories. Samples of Braille sheets.	spot. Description of case histories of visually challenged people who have been doing well in their studies and careers. Activities with Braille sheet.	

at night? How can we identify stars and planets?bodies/celestial objects and their classification - moon, planets, stars, constellations. Motion of celestial objects in space; the solar system.of objects in the sky during the day and at night, models, charts, role-play and games, planetarium.the objects moving in sky during the day and night.Observing and identify some prominent plan visible to the naked (Venus, Mars, Jupiter the night sky and tr movement.Observing and identify some prominent plan visible to the naked (Venus, Mars, Jupiter the night sky and tr movement.EartbquakesPhenomena related to carthquake? What can we do to minimise its effects?Phenomena related to carthquakes.Earthquake data; visit to seismographic centre.Looking at structure large objects and gues what will happen to ti in the event of earthquake; activitie	Questions	Key Concepts	Resources	Activities/ Processes
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earthquake; activitie explore stable	do to minimise its effects?			what will happen to the
explore stable				in the event of
unstable structures.				-
				unstable structures.

Questions	Key Concepts	Resources	Activities/ Processes
7. Natural Resources Man's intervention in phenomena of nature What do we do with wood? What if we had no wood? What will happen it we go on cutting trees/grass without limit?	Consequences of deforestation: scarcity of products for humans and other living beings, change in physical properties of soil, reduced rainfall. Reforestation; recycling of paper.	Data and narratives on deforestation and on movements to protect forests.	Narration and discussions. Project- Recycling of paper.
What do we do with coal and petroleum? Can we create coal and petroleum artificially?	Formation of coal and petroleum in nature. (fossil fuels?). Consequences of over extraction of coal and petroleum.	Background materials, charts etc.	Discussion.
Pollution of air and water What are the various activities by human beings that make air impure? Does clear, transparent water indicate purity?	Water and air are increasingly getting polluted and therefore become scarce for use. Biological and chemical contamination of water; effect of impure water on soil and living beings; effect of soil containing excess of fertilisers and insecticides on water resources. Potable water.	Description of some specific examples of extremely polluted rivers.	Case study and discussion. Purification of water by physical and chemical methods including using sunlight. Discussion on other methods of water purification.