

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**  
**Elementary *Amplify Science***  
**2019**

**Introduction**

**What does the *Amplify Science K-5* curriculum include?**

*Amplify Science K-5* is a core science curriculum that addresses the following disciplines: Life Science, Earth and Space Science, Physical Science and Engineering Design. The program meets the New York State

P12 Science Learning Standards, *New York City PK-8 Science Scope and Sequence 2018*, and supports three-dimensional learning. The curriculum also supports components of the NYS Next Generation Learning Standards English Language Arts and Math

**What is in the Amplify program?**

**Amplify Science for Elementary School**

	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	Minutes per lesson
<b>K</b>	Needs of Plants and Animals		Pushes and Pulls			Sunlight and Weather					45
<b>1</b>	Animal and Plant Defenses		Light and Sound			Spinning Earth					45
<b>2</b>	Plant and Animal Relationships		Properties of Materials			Changing Landforms					60
<b>3</b>	Balancing Forces	Inheritance and Traits		Environments and Survival		Weather and Climate					60
<b>4</b>	Energy Conversions	Vision and Light		Earth's Features		Waves, Energy and Information					60
<b>5</b>	Patterns of Earth and Sky	Modeling Matter		The Earth System (26 lessons)			Ecosystem Restoration				60

All units have 22 lessons except Grade 5: The Earth System, which has 26 lessons.

- Grade K-2 programs consist of three units. Grade 3-5 programs consist of four units.
- Each Grade K-5 unit is divided into three chapters.
- Each grade K-2 unit consists of 22 lessons for a total of 66 lessons.
- Each grade 3-5 unit also consists of 22 lessons, except the fifth grade Earth System unit which consists of 26 lessons, for a total of 92 lessons.
- Each unit consist of 20 instructional lessons and 2 assessment days--one pre-assessment and one post-assessment.

Each unit includes the following materials:

- Teacher guide (print and digital)
- Access to digital simulations/apps for grades 2-5 that support students in investigating scientific phenomena and engaging in science practices. *NOTE: There are no digital components for grades K-1.*
- Digital teacher access to informational texts.
- Physical kit includes:
  - Non-consumable materials to support two classes of 25 students (K-2) or two classes of 30 students (3-5).
  - Enough consumable materials to support **two** uses per kit.
  - Premium print materials (e.g. unit questions, chapter questions, key concepts, vocabulary cards as well as classroom activity resources such as station cards, sorting cards, etc.)
  - Five different informational titles per unit. Grades K-2 receive 18 copies per title, while grades 3-5 receive 15 copies per title. *NOTE: Big books are also included for each title in grades K-1.*
  - One blackline master copy of each unit Investigation Notebook.
  - Twenty-five student copies of each unit Investigation Notebook (grades K-2 only). Grades 3-5 use student notebooks; pages from the investigation notebook may be copied as needed.

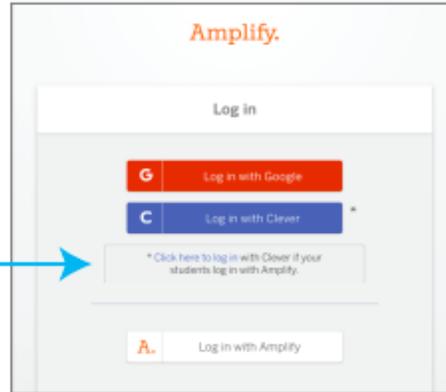
## Getting Started

### Quick start: logging into Amplify Science for New York City teachers

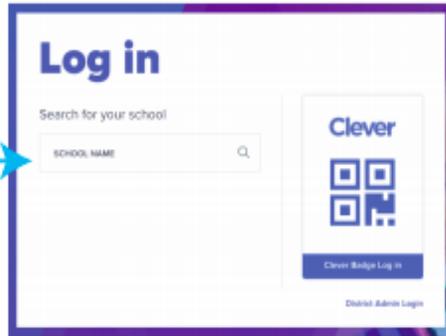
1. Navigate to [learning.amplify.com](https://learning.amplify.com)

Use latest version of Safari or Chrome.  
Supported devices: iPads 3 or more recent models, MacBooks, Windows laptops or desktops, Chromebooks.

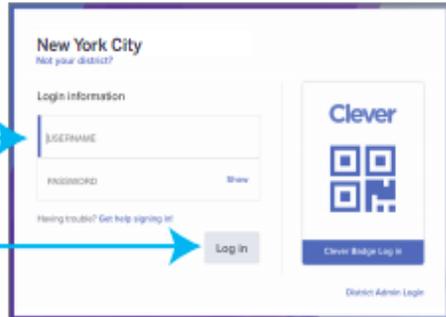
2. Click [here](#) to log in with Clever if your students log in with Amplify.



3. Search for and select your school (e.g. 00M000 – PS/IS School Name).



4. Enter your district Employee ID number in both the username and password fields to log in.



5. Click "Log in"

## **Resources**

**Amplify's New York City Site** - This live website was created for New York City educators. Check back for frequent updates.

<https://www.amplify.com/science/nycresources>.

## **Curriculum Content**

### **Does the Amplify curriculum include hands-on and interactive digital activities?**

Every Amplify unit includes hands-on experiences. Students also interact with phenomena using technology. For example, molecular interaction is made visible to fifth graders through digital simulations in the Modeling Matter unit. Students also use models (physical and digital) to represent phenomena happening in the natural world.

### **How does the Amplify curriculum balance print and digital materials?**

The use of technology is always purposeful. Grade 4-5 units make greater use of digital elements than grade 2-3 units, as phenomena become more challenging to observe directly. There are no digital components in grades K-1 units. The Amplify curriculum also has a strong emphasis on literacy, with students reading and analyzing informational texts, and writing scientific explanations and arguments.

### **How does the Amplify curriculum connect to the New York State Next Generation Learning Standards in ELA and Math?**

The Amplify curriculum addresses a significant number of the standards as they pertain to science. Throughout each unit, students read science texts, engage in science talk and argumentation, and write evidence-based science explanations. The curriculum supports vocabulary, language, and reading comprehension development. Students also use measurement tools with precision, record and analyze data, make sense of scientific phenomena, and develop solutions to problems experienced in the real world.

### **How long are *Amplify Science* lessons?**

- Each grade K-2 lesson is 45 minutes long.
- Each grade 3-5 lessons is 60 minutes long.

NOTE: If it is impossible to teach K-2 science in 45 minute periods, or 3-5 science in 60 minute periods, the curriculum can still be taught to fidelity. Please refer to the Planning Guides.

## **Standards & Assessments**

### **How is the Amplify curriculum aligned to the *New York City PK-8 Science Scope and Sequence 2018*?**

*Amplify Science* is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards, on which the New York State P12 Science Learning Standards and *New York City PK-8 Science Scope and Sequence 2018* are based.

### **How do Amplify Curriculum assessment reports show student progress and proficiency?**

#### **Formative Assessments**

- A unit Pre-Assessment provides a baseline from which to measure growth over the course of the unit.
- Periodic On-The-Fly Assessments are embedded into lessons to easily support and guide instruction.
- End-of-Chapter explanations or arguments are three-dimensional performance tasks that support students' consolidation of the ideas encountered in each chapter and provide insight into students' developing understanding.
- Once per chapter, students are given a brief opportunity to reflect on their learning, ask questions, and reveal ongoing wonderings about unit content.
- Critical Juncture Assessments at the end of each chapter reveal student understanding and proficiency, ensuring that students are well positioned for success in ensuing instruction.
- Teachers may decide what to review and what to score, according to their needs.

#### **Summative Assessments**

- End-of-Unit Assessments include discussion, modeling, and written explanations or arguments that enable students to demonstrate understanding and growth after a unit.

## **Does the Amplify curriculum offer Spanish translations to the science texts?**

Yes, but there is an additional cost unless you are a Dual Language school or have a Transitional Bilingual program.

The grades K-2 Spanish add-on bundle includes:

- Printed kit materials (e.g., sorting cards, posters, etc.)
- Student informational texts
- Student Investigation Notebooks
- Pre/post/critical juncture assessments

The grades 3-5 Spanish add-on bundle includes:

- Printed kit materials (e.g., sorting cards, posters, etc.)
- Student informational texts
- Pre/post/critical juncture assessments

## **How does the Amplify program support English Language Learners and Diverse Learners?**

- Every lesson of every unit includes embedded teacher and student supports for English language and diverse learners, including specific differentiation strategies for students who need more support or more challenge.
- These strategies and methods ensure that all students have access to the same content as their peers.

Two notable categories of suggested modifications are:

- Relatively small alterations and additional scaffolds that provide students with greater access to the content. These types of scaffolds benefit all learners and include suggestions such as providing graphic organizers, practice with multiple-meaning words, etc.
- English language learner specific strategies such as English/Spanish glossaries, native language supports, and provision of cognates and other content-specific language scaffolds are provided in each unit.

## **Technology**

### **What type of devices does *Amplify Science* run on?**

Amplify Science is device-agnostic. For most devices, you need to just log in to our website from a Safari or Chrome browser, though if you're using an iPad, certain apps should be downloaded to ensure optimal performance.

### **Do we need devices in class every day?**

For grades K-5, devices are not needed every day. For grades 2-3 devices are needed about one in five lessons; for grades 4-5 devices are needed one to two in five lessons. When a device is needed, the activity has been designed so that students can be 1:1 with a device or can be sharing a device in a small group.

### **What has to be installed on my computer?**

If teachers and students are using anything besides an iPad (e.g. Chromebook, MacBook, Windows Tablet, etc.), there is nothing to download. The online content is entirely web-based. For iPad users, Amplify has optimized certain apps in the program and made them available for download in the App Store for free to customers.

### **How does your program accommodate students who do not have access to devices/internet access at home?**

Most homework assignments include a printable PDF or other option that does not require devices/internet access. In cases where an activity requires devices, the teacher is provided with options for adjusting the schedule to complete the activity in class.

### **What if schools do not have devices for every student?**

- Teachers need a device 100 percent of the time for projection of diagrams, slides, and videos.
- Classrooms typically need devices a couple of days a week. The curriculum has been optimized for a 1:1 or 1:2 ratio of devices to students, with a minimum of 1:4 devices to students.
- The program includes printable Student Investigation Notebooks that contain all of the essential activities like recording observations, writing, etc. for students to complete their work in print if they don't have access to devices.

### **What if a school needs curriculum support?**

For deliveries and orders, contact the Core Curriculum Service Center at [curriculum@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:curriculum@schools.nyc.gov) or (718) 935-3334. Service Center hours are 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Monday - Friday.

### **What if a school is missing items?**

Material lists and unpacking guidance are available at

<https://www.amplify.com/science/nycresources>.

For additional support regarding Core Curriculum ordering and delivery, including missing items, please contact the Service Center via email at [curriculum@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:curriculum@schools.nyc.gov) or phone (718) 935-3334. The Service Center hours are 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Monday - Friday.

### **What if a school wants to return an item?**

For support with returns for your Core Curriculum order, please contact the Service Center via email at [curriculum@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:curriculum@schools.nyc.gov) or phone (718) 935-3334. The Service Center hours are 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday - Friday. There is a deadline for the return of items- after this deadline items can not be returned.

### **What if a school wants to purchase additional items?**

For additional support on Core Curriculum ordering and delivery, including ordering additional items, please contact the Service Center via email at [curriculum@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:curriculum@schools.nyc.gov) or phone (718) 935-3334. The Service Center hours are 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday - Friday.

### **Is professional development available?**

Virtual professional learning opportunities and resources from the summer institute are available at <https://www.amplify.com/science/nycresources>.

Please review these with the science lead at your school.