

# Amplify Science

## Writing in Science

### Grade 2, Unit 3: Changing Landforms

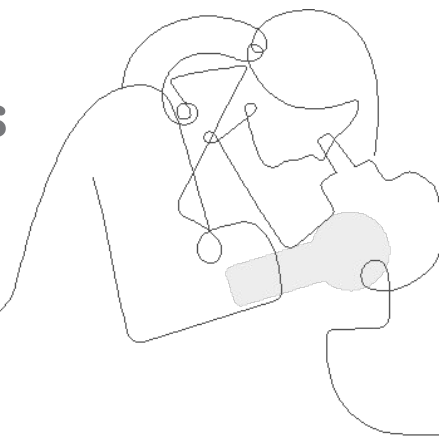
#### Part 3

#### Strengthen workshop

Los Angeles Unified School District

Saturday, March 18, 2023

Presented by



# Ice Breaker!



Share a **WOW** moment from inside your classroom

- Think about a wow moment that you have experienced inside your classroom. Write it down on the sticky note.
- Circulate around the room, when the timer goes off share out with the person closest to you.
- When the music starts again start circulating again.
- When the music goes off, share out with the person closest to you.
- Add your sticky note to the 'WOW Moment' anchor chart.

# Amplify's Purpose Statement

Dear teachers,

You do a job that is nearly impossible and **utterly essential**.

**We are in your corner** – extending your reach, saving you time, and enhancing your understanding of each student.

**Thank you for working with us** to craft rigorous and riveting learning experiences for your classroom.

We share your goal of **inspiring all students to think deeply, creatively, and for themselves**.

Sincerely,  
Amplify

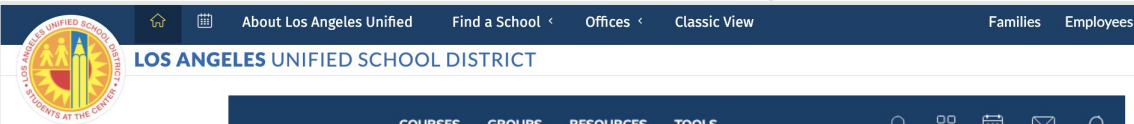
# Why do scientists write?



# Norms: Establishing a culture of learners

- **Take risks:** Ask any questions, provide any answers.
- **Participate:** Share your thinking, participate in discussion and reflection.
- **Be fully present:** Unplug and immerse yourself in the moment.
- **Physical needs:** Stand up, get water, take breaks.

# Schoolology



[← Back to Schoology Home Page](#)

## LMS App Center

The LMS App Center provides a catalog of District-approved digital content and learning tools (including digital components of adopted textbooks) that are available for classroom teachers and students to access within the learning management system, Schoolology.

For information on District-approval policies and procedures, please visit: [udidp.lausd.net](#).

- To search the full list of digital learning tools, click "Submit".
- To search by Publisher Name or Textbook Title, type in a word associated to your adopted publisher, then click "Submit".
- To narrow your search with filters such as Content Area, Grade Level, or Content Type, select from the dropdown menu, then click "Submit".

To learn more about using the LMS App Center, please refer to the following [video overview](#).

**Publisher Name** Starts With

**Content Area** All

**Grade Level** All

**Content Type** All

**Textbook Title** Starts With

**Submit**

All Amplify Products



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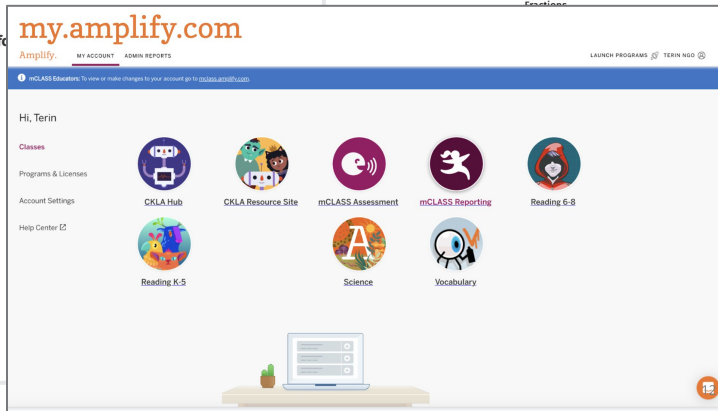
To learn more about using the LMS App Center, please refer to the following [video overview](#).

[← Search Again](#)

### Amplify

**Content Area:** ELA  
**Grade Level:** ES  
**Content Type:** Supplemental  
**Integration Type:** App (Left Navigation)  
**Purchase Type:** District and School  
**Getting Started Guide**  
**Other Info:** School licenses required  
mCLASS  
CKLA  
Amplify Reading  
Amplify Science  
Creative

**Vendor Support Desk:**  
P: 800.823.9969  
E: [help@amplify.com](mailto:help@amplify.com)  
S: [amplify.com/support/](https://amplify.com/support/)  
**Textbook Title(s):**  
NA



**Vendor Support Desk:**  
P: 800.823.9969  
E: [help@amplify.com](mailto:help@amplify.com)  
S: [amplify.com/support/](https://amplify.com/support/)  
**Textbook Title(s):**  
NA

op is for  
only)

# Schoology

- To join Amplify ES Group: W4PK-W466-63F5B



# Navigation Temperature Check

Rate yourself on your comfort level accessing Amplify Science materials and navigating a digital curriculum.

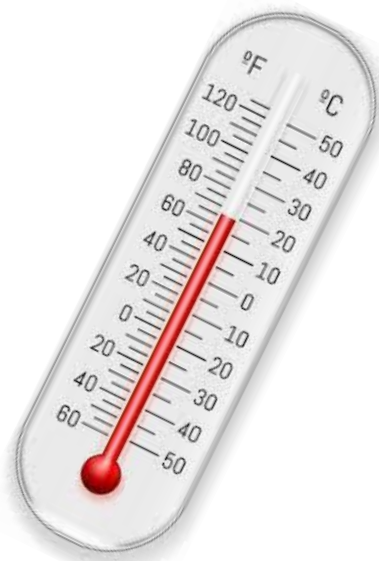
1 = Extremely Uncomfortable

2 = Uncomfortable

3 = Mild

4 = Comfortable

5 = Extremely Comfortable



# Overarching goals

- ❑ Identify specific characteristics and genres unique to science writing
- ❑ Describe how the Amplify Science writing approach supports students to engage in science practices, make sense of science ideas, and develop as writers
- ❑ Be ready to teach specific writing activities in an Amplify Science unit

**Let's connect  
this goal to  
our students**





# Plan for the day

- Introduction and framing
- Writing in Amplify Science
  - Writing as part of a multimodal experience
  - Supporting students with writing
  - Writing a culminating explanation or argument
  - Additional supports
- Model Lesson
- Planning
- Closing

# Opening Reflection

What are your goals  
for student outcomes?



Participant Notebook

<https://bit.ly/3JliYhU>

## Reflection

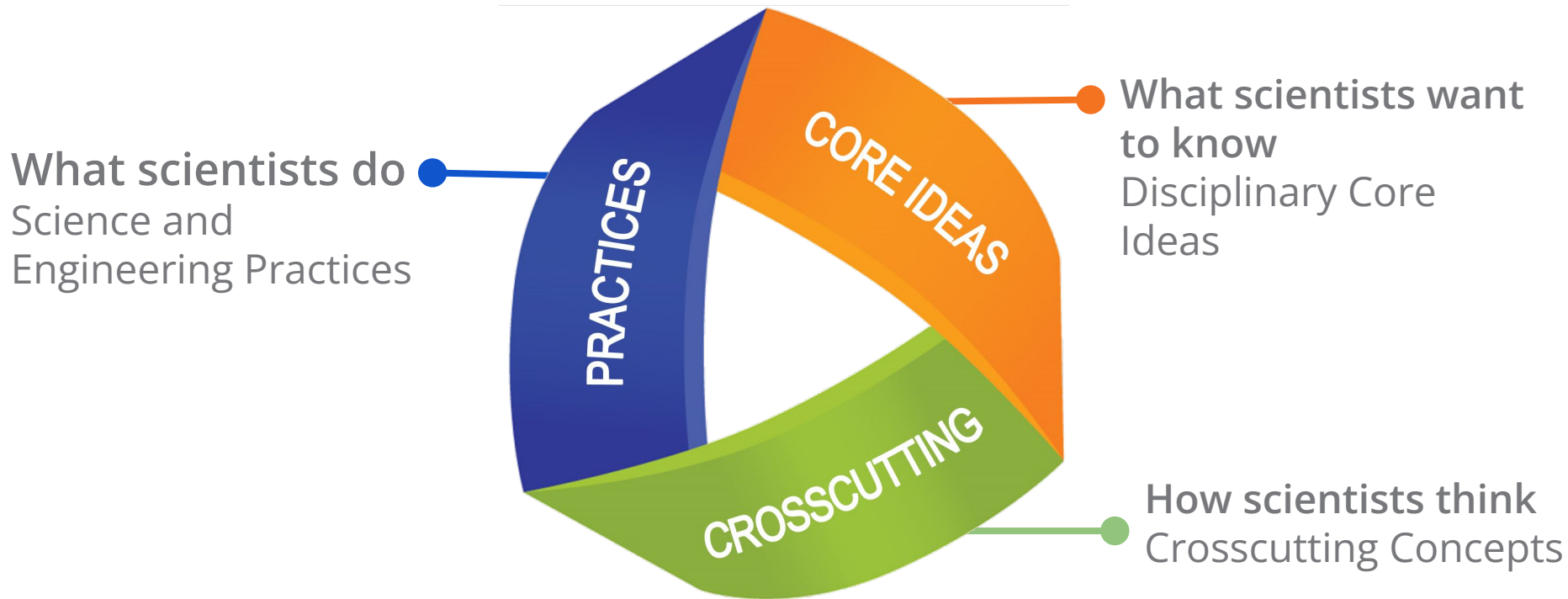
Use the provided spaces as a place for reflection throughout the session.

### Session goals and student outcomes

What Connect the workshop goal(s) to an outcome you envision for your students.	Why Reflect on why you want this outcome for your students.	How How will your students achieve the outcome? Reflect on what you learned during the workshop that will impact student outcomes.

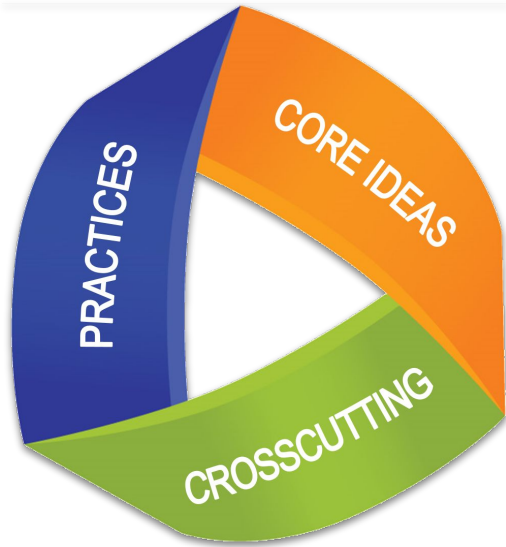
# Figuring out phenomena

## Using 3-D teaching and learning



# Next Generation Science Standards

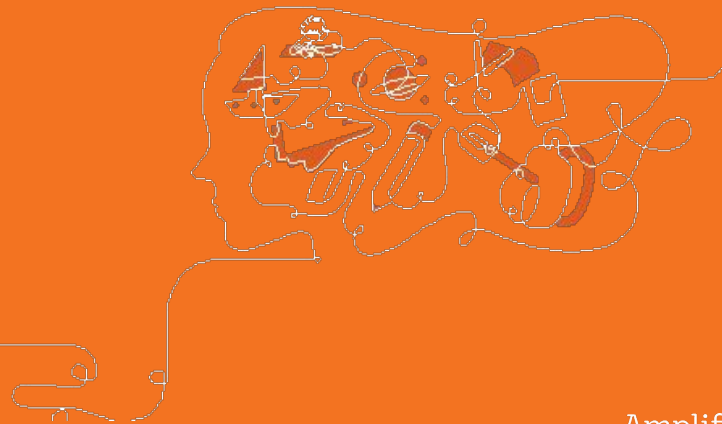
## Science and Engineering Practices



1. Asking questions (for science) and defining problems (for 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 (for science) and designing solutions (for engineering)
7. Engaging in argument from evidence
8. Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information

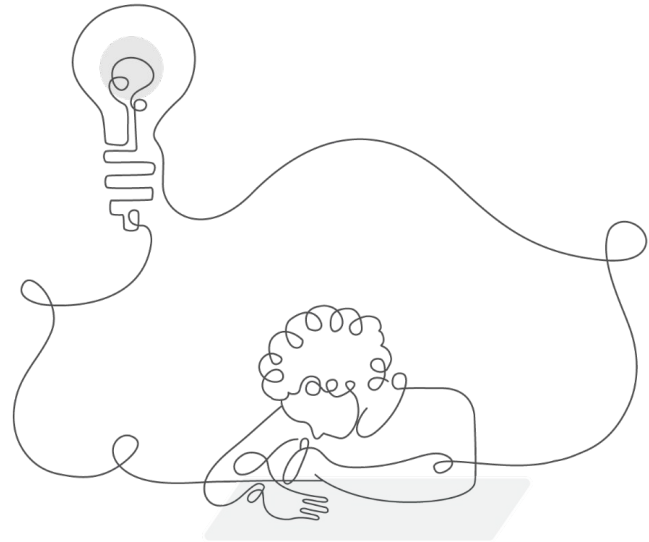
# Writing in Amplify Science

Purposeful communicative writing is an integral part of the Amplify Science curriculum

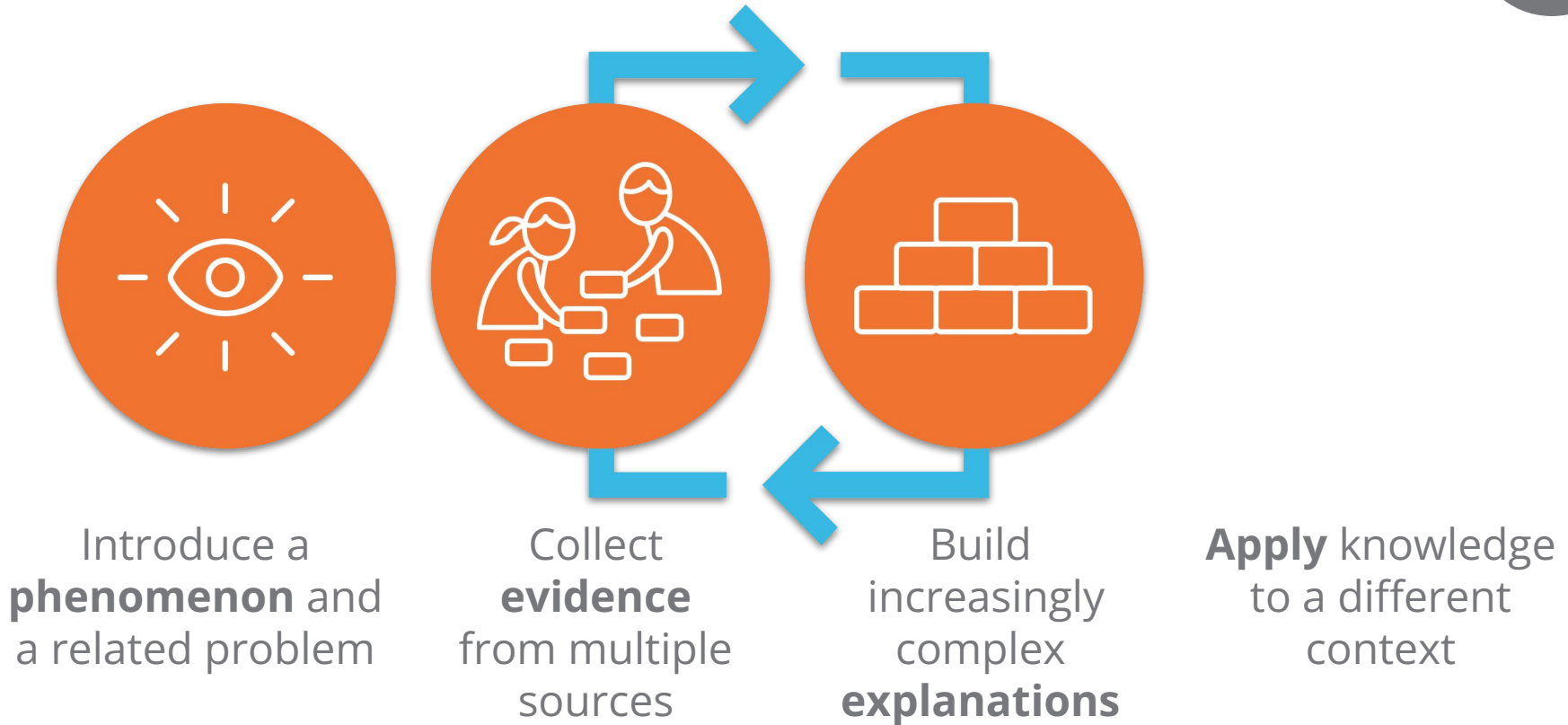


# Why do students write in Amplify Science?

- To activate background knowledge
- To reflect on understanding
- To engage in sense-making
- To record data / observations
- To organize ideas
- To communicate ideas
  - To explain
  - To persuade



# Instructional approach



# Phenomena-based Instruction

**Inquire** like a scientist.

**Think** like a scientist.

**Quantify** like a scientist.

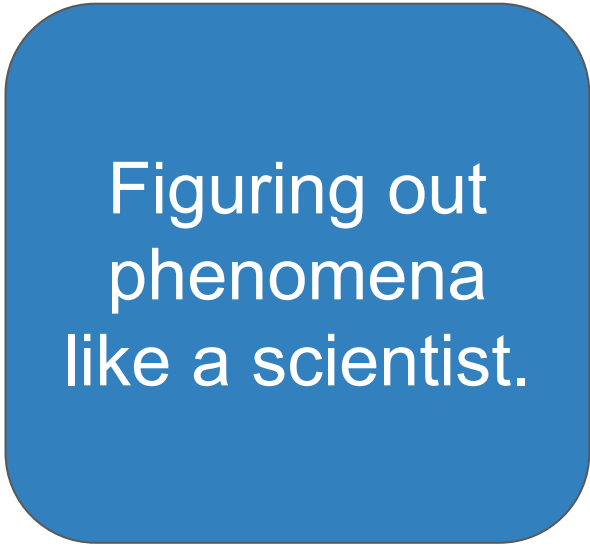
**Read** like a scientist.

**Talk** like a scientist.

✓ **Write** like a scientist.

**Critique** like a scientist.

**Argue** like a scientist.



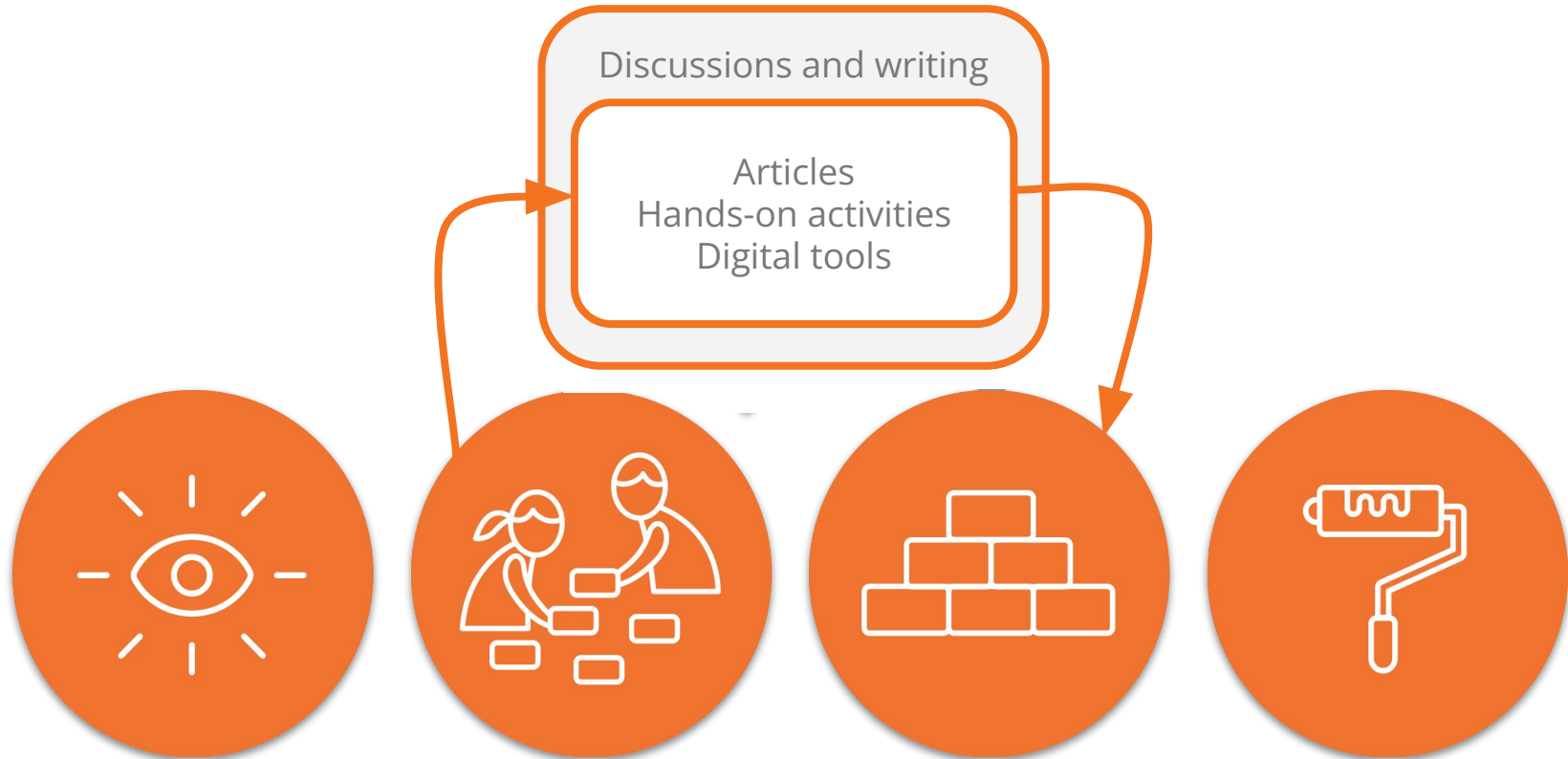
Figuring out  
phenomena  
like a scientist.

# Why do students write in Amplify Science?

- To activate background knowledge
- To reflect on understanding
- To engage in sense-making
- To record data / observations
- To organize ideas
- To communicate ideas
  - Explain
  - Persuade



# Instructional approach





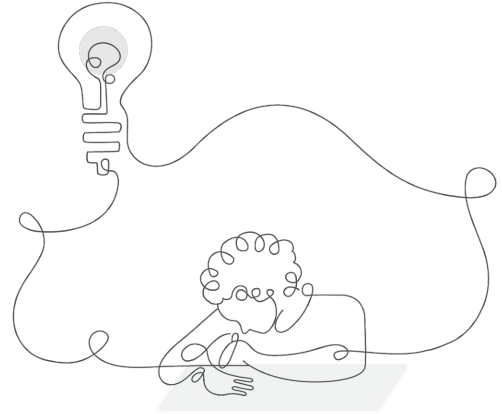
# Plan for the day

- Introduction and framing
- **Writing in Amplify Science**
  - **Writing as part of a multimodal experience**
  - Supporting students with writing
  - Writing a culminating explanation or argument
  - Additional supports
- Model Lesson
- Planning
- Closing

# Reviewing the unit phenomenon

Amplify Science units are designed around complex phenomena that drives student learning through the unit.

Pay attention to the phenomenon, or observable event, students will figure out in your unit.



# Changing Landforms

An illustration of a coastal scene. On the left, there are several green coniferous trees and a white building with a red roof. In the center, a blue flag flies on a pole. To the right, a dark grey cliff face meets a sandy beach, which then meets the blue ocean. The sky is a light blue gradient.

**Problem:** Students help the director of the Oceanside Recreation Center determine if the center is safe after a nearby cliff collapse by investigating landforms and erosion.

**Role:** Geologist

We're about to begin a new science unit.

We'll be learning about why the **shape** of **land** can be **different** than it used to be.



This is **Oceanside Recreation Center**, where students come to learn about leadership and teamwork. The center is on a beautiful **cliff** next to the **ocean**.



When they are at the center, students get to go on **hikes** and **observe nature**.



Sometimes they get to stay for a week and sleep in cabins overnight.



When school lets out, kids can go to **summer camp** at Oceanside Recreation Center.

They do team-building activities and learn how to be better leaders.



Has anyone been to summer camp or to a place like Oceanside Recreation Center?

One place I have been to is \_\_\_\_\_.

Nearby Cliff



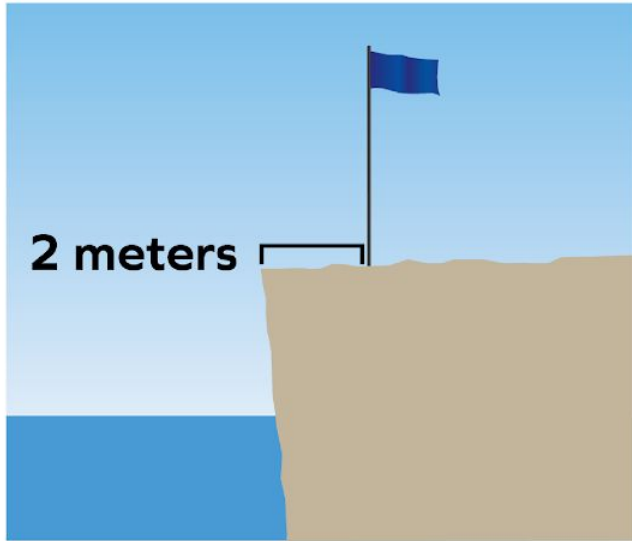
Director Higgins at Oceanside found out that a nearby cliff **collapsed**.

He is worried this might happen to the recreation center's cliff, putting visitors at risk.

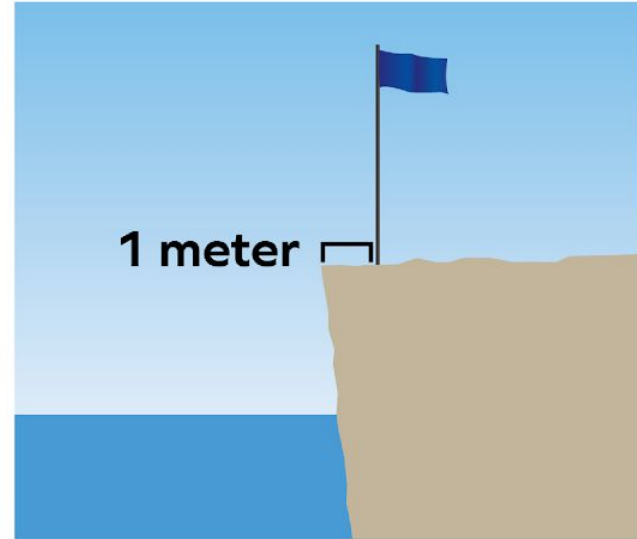
After researching the recreation center's cliff, Director Higgins found some important information.

He found that the edge of the cliff is closer to the flagpole than it used to be.

**A long time ago**



**Now**



Director Higgins has hired us as **geologists** to help decide whether the recreation center's cliff is safe.

As geologists, our role is to help Director Higgins decide if he needs to close the recreation center because visitors are in danger.

# Changing Landforms

## Coherent Storylines



How did the edge of the cliff get to be so close to the flagpole?



How did the recreation center's cliff change?



How did the recreation center's cliff erode without the director noticing?



Could the recreation center's cliff erode quickly?

# Sample instructional sequence

## Grade 2 Changing Landforms

During the sample sequence, we'll experience some **small writes**.

Small writes are **short writing opportunities**. They're distinct from more formal end-of-chapter explanations or arguments (which we'll talk about later).



# Sample instructional sequence

## Grade 2 Changing Landforms

As you experience the small writes in the sequence, consider the **role** of each writing opportunity.

It may help to consider:

- Why are students writing?
- How is it useful to them in figuring out the phenomenon?



# Sample instructional sequence

## Note catcher

Use **Table 1** to keep track of your thinking during the instructional sequence.

### Writing in science: Note catcher and reference sheet

**Table 1: Writing as part of the multimodal experience**

**Reference: Why do students write in Amplify Science?**

- To activate background knowledge
- To reflect on understanding
- To engage in sense-making
- To record data / observations
- To organize ideas
- To communicate ideas
  - To explain
  - To persuade

**Sample instructional sequence:** Use the space below to make notes about the role of each small write as we talk through the sequence

**Small write 1:** *Blue Whales and Buttercups*

**Small write 2:** Recording and analyzing observations

**Small write 3:** Gathering evidence about the Elk Mountain Pack

**End-of-sequence reflection:** How did the small writes support students as they worked towards writing the more formal end-of-chapter explanation?

**Reference: Embedded supports for writing in Amplify Science**

- Smaller pieces of writing build to larger pieces of writing
- Informal talk opportunities: partners and small groups
- Sentence starters and/or language frames
- Classroom wall and other environmental print
- Word banks
- Discourse routines
- Multimodal instruction
- Gradual release of responsibility

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1

**Reflection:** How could the End-of-Unit Assessment Guide help your planning and instruction throughout the whole unit?

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2

in your unit

is upcoming. Review the activity and small write to analyze.

nt Guide from digital resources.

# Changing Landforms: Writing in Chapter 1

## Chapters

Chapter 1: How did the edge of the cliff get to be so close to the flagpole? ⓘ



LESSON 1.1  
Pre-Unit Assessment



LESSON 1.2  
Observations About  
Landforms



LESSON 1.3  
Observing Sand Samples



LESSON 1.4  
Gary's Sand Journal



LESSON 1.5  
Making Sense of Sand  
Samples



LESSON 1.6  
Explaining Landform  
Changes


# Small write 1: Writing Initial Explanations (1.1, Activity 2)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pre-Unit Writing: Explaining the Arch**

Directions:

1. Look at the pictures and read the information under the pictures.
2. Do your best to answer the question below.
3. Make a drawing of the process you think happened.



A k

This landform  
The ocean wa  
small. Now, th

How did the h

The hole in the

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

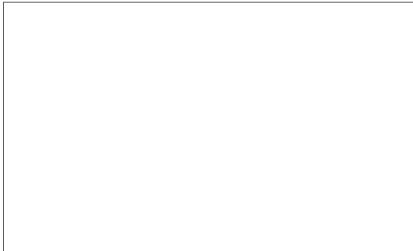
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Pre-Unit Writing: Explaining the Arch (continued)**

Make a drawing if it helps you explain what you think happened to the rock.  
Label your drawing.



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Changing Landforms—Lesson 1.1

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2

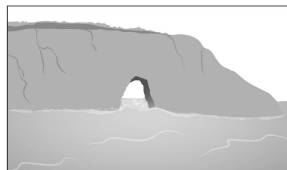
## Pre-Unit Assessment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

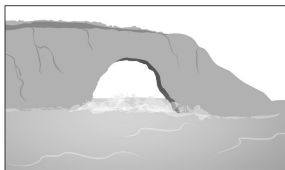
**Pre-Unit Writing: Explaining the Arch**

Directions:

1. Look at the pictures and read the information under the pictures.
2. Do your best to answer the question below.
3. Make a drawing on the next page if it helps you explain what you think happened to the rock.



A long time ago



Now

This landform is called an arch. It is made of hard rock, and it is in the ocean. The ocean waves hit the rock. A long time ago, the hole in the rock was small. Now, the hole is bigger.

How did the hole in the rock get bigger?

The hole in the rock got bigger because \_\_\_\_\_

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# Let's review the directions and read the arch information.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pre-Unit Writing: Explaining the Arch**

Directions:

1. Look at the pictures and read the information under the pictures.
2. Do your best to answer the question below.
3. Make a drawing on the next page if it helps you explain what you think happened to the rock.

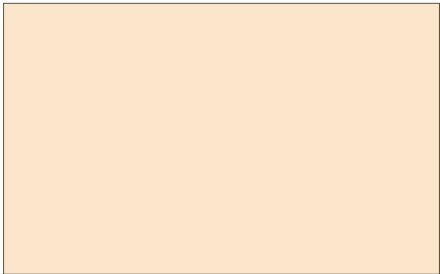
 A photograph of a rock with a hole in it.

A lot of people have seen this landform. The ocean was small. Now, the ocean is big. How did the hole in the rock get there? The hole in the rock got there because the ocean was small. Now, the ocean is big. The hole in the rock got there because the ocean was small. Now, the ocean is big.

**Pre-Unit Writing: Explaining the Arch (continued)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Make a drawing if it helps you explain what you think happened to the rock. Label your drawing.



Changing Landforms—Lesson 1.1

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2



**Write** your responses  
and **create** a drawing if it  
helps you explain  
your thinking.

# Changing Landforms: Writing in Chapter 1

## Chapters

Chapter 1: How did the edge of the cliff get to be so close to the flagpole? ⓘ



LESSON 1.1  
Pre-Unit Assessment



LESSON 1.2  
Observations About  
Landforms



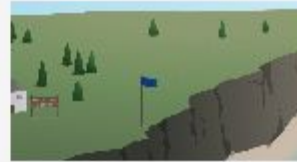
LESSON 1.3  
Observing Sand Samples



LESSON 1.4  
Gary's Sand Journal



LESSON 1.5  
Making Sense of Sand  
Samples



LESSON 1.6  
Explaining Landform  
Changes


## Small write 2: Observations about Landforms: Recording Initial Ideas and Questions (1.2, Activity 1)

What are landforms made of?	
What we know	Questions we have



What **ideas** do you have about what landforms are made of?

What are landforms made of?

What we know	Questions we have
	



What **questions** do you have about what landforms are made of?

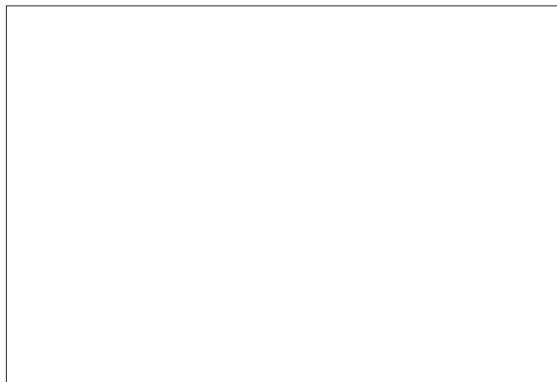
What do you **wonder** about landforms?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### What Landforms Are Made Of

Directions:

1. Choose a landform to draw.
2. In the box below, draw the landform and label it.
3. Below your diagram, explain what you think the landform is made of.



This landform is made of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Turn to page 6 in your notebooks.

We will create scientific drawings called **diagrams**.

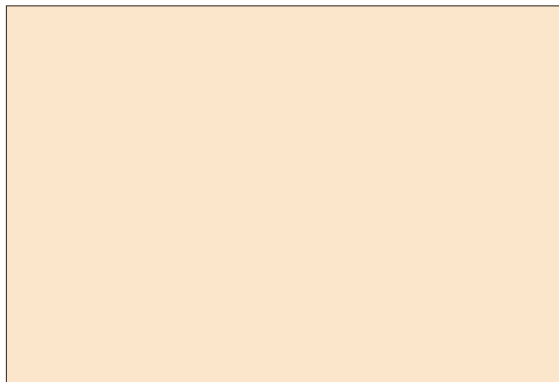
It's important to label diagrams.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**What Landforms Are Made Of**

Directions:

1. Choose a landform to draw.
2. In the box below, draw the landform and label it.
3. Below your diagram, explain what you think the landform is made of.



This landform is made of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Complete the diagram and the sentence.

## Small write 3: Observation about Landforms: Creating Scientific Drawings, Labeling and Writing a Sentence (1.2, Activity 3)

Lesson 1.2: Observations About Landforms

Activity 3

We'll use the images in *Handbook of Land and Water* to make **observations** about whether **landforms** are made of **rock**.

When scientists make observations, they use any of their five **senses** to gather information. We will use our sense of **sight** to make observations of the images in the book.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Observations of Landforms

- Directions:
- Choose at least two landforms to read about in *Handbook of Land and Water*.
  - In the “Landform” column of the table below, record the names of the landforms.
  - In the “Observations” column, record observations that help you figure out whether landforms are made of rock.

Idea: Landforms are made of rock.

Landform	Observations

Turn to page 7 in your notebooks.

We’ll make **observations** of the images in the book that can be used as **evidence** to support the idea that landforms are made of rock.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Observations of Landforms

- Directions:
- 1. Choose at least two landforms to read about in *Handbook of Land and Water*.
  - 2. In the “Landform” column of the table below, record the names of the landforms.
  - 3. In the “Observations” column, record observations that help you figure out whether landforms are made of rock.

Idea: Landforms are made of rock.

Landform	Observations
cave	rock walls, rock on bottom of the cave, fallen rock

Turn back to page 7 in your notebooks.

Let’s **record** our cave observations.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Observations of Landforms**

- Directions:
- Choose at least two landforms to read about in *Handbook of Land and Water*.
  - In the “Landform” column of the table below, record the names of the landforms.
  - In the “Observations” column, record observations that help you figure out whether landforms are made of rock.

**Idea: Landforms are made of rock.**

Landform	Observations



Choose at least two other landforms and then read and record observations about them.

## Small write 4: reflecting and revising observations about Landforms: (1.2, Activity 4)


Lesson 1.2: Observations About Landforms

Activity 4

Our new ideas about what landforms are made of are **evidence**. Evidence is information that supports an answer to a question. The question we are investigating is: **What are landforms made of?**

Based on our evidence, we can conclude that **landforms** are made of **rock**.

What are landforms made of?

What we know	Questions we have
	



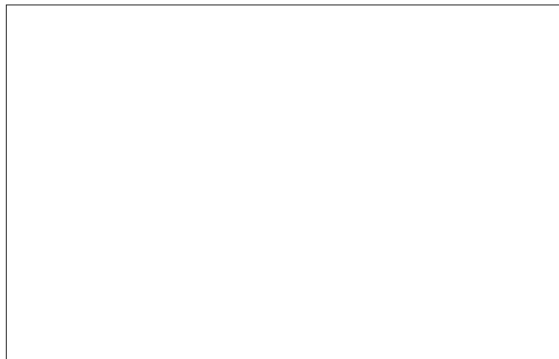
Would anyone like to **revise** their ideas or **add** new ideas to answer the question: **What are landforms made of?**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Revising What Landforms Are Made Of**

Directions:

1. In the box below, draw the same landform that you drew on page 6.
2. Label the landform.
3. Below your diagram, explain what you think the landform is made of, based on the evidence you gathered from *Handbook of Land and Water*.



This landform is made of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Turn to page 8 in your notebooks.

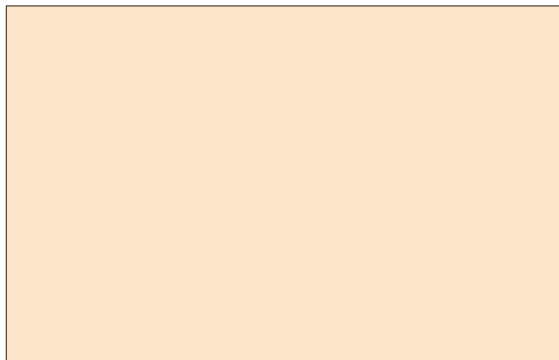
If scientists gather new **evidence** that makes them change their ideas, they **revise** their **diagrams** to show their new ideas.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Revising What Landforms Are Made Of**

Directions:

1. In the box below, draw the same landform that you drew on page 6.
2. Label the landform.
3. Below your diagram, explain what you think the landform is made of, based on the evidence you gathered from *Handbook of Land and Water*.



This landform is made of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Create** a new diagram  
using evidence from  
the books.

# Changing Landforms: Writing in Chapter 1

## Chapters

Chapter 1: How did the edge of the cliff get to be so close to the flagpole? ⓘ



LESSON 1.1  
Pre-Unit Assessment



LESSON 1.2  
Observations About  
Landforms



LESSON 1.3  
Observing Sand Samples



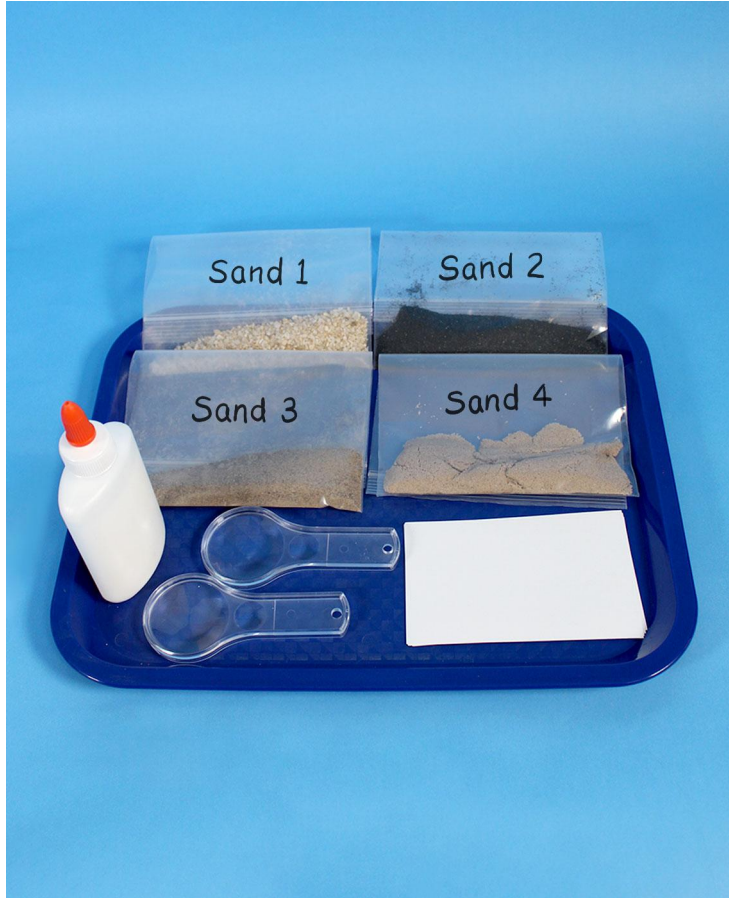
LESSON 1.4  
Gary's Sand Journal



LESSON 1.5  
Making Sense of Sand  
Samples



LESSON 1.6  
Explaining Landform  
Changes



We will make **observations** of **sand** using our sense of sight.

Each group will get a tray of materials with **sand samples**, hand lenses, glue, and index cards.

# Observing Sand Samples



## Step 1

**Observe** one of the sand samples inside its bag.



## Step 2

**Trade** sand samples with another group member.



## Step 3

**Talk** about what you notice.



What **observations** did you make about the sand samples?

What **questions** do you have about sand?

## Small write 5: Observations Sand Samples: Recording Comparison of Sand Samples (1.3, Activity 2)

Turn to page 10 in your notebooks.

To **compare** means to notice how things are **similar** or **different**. We will compare the four sand samples.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Comparing Types of Sand

1. Put the sand samples in order from smallest to largest grain size.

Which sand has the smallest grains? \_\_\_\_\_

Which sand has the largest grains? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Put the sand samples in order from lightest color to darkest color.

Which sand is the lightest in color? \_\_\_\_\_

Which sand is the darkest in color? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Put the sand samples in order from sharpest to roundest grain shape.

Which sand has the sharpest grains? \_\_\_\_\_

Which sand has the roundest grains? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Are any of the types of sand similar to each other? Describe their similarities.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Comparing Types of Sand**

1. Put the sand samples in order from smallest to largest grain size.

Which sand has the smallest grains? \_\_\_\_\_

Which sand has the largest grains? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Put the sand samples in order from lightest color to darkest color.

Which sand is the lightest in color? \_\_\_\_\_

Which sand is the darkest in color? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Put the sand samples in order from sharpest to roundest grain shape.

Which sand has the sharpest grains? \_\_\_\_\_

Which sand has the roundest grains? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Are any of the types of sand similar to each other? Describe their similarities.

---

---

---




Work in groups to **compare** the sand samples. Each group member should **complete** their own notebook page.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Comparing Types of Sand**

1. Put the sand samples in order from smallest to largest grain size.

Which sand has the smallest grains?  \_\_\_\_\_

Which sand has the largest grains? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Put the sand samples in order from lightest color to darkest color.

Which sand is the lightest in color? \_\_\_\_\_

Which sand is the darkest in color? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Put the sand samples in order from sharpest to roundest grain shape.

Which sand has the sharpest grains? \_\_\_\_\_

Which sand has the roundest grains? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Are any of the types of sand similar to each other? Describe their similarities.

---

---

---

I'll record some of our  
class observations.



What did you **observe**  
when you **compared** the  
sand samples?

# Changing Landforms: Writing in Chapter 1

## Chapters

Chapter 1: How did the edge of the cliff get to be so close to the flagpole? ⓘ



LESSON 1.1  
Pre-Unit Assessment



LESSON 1.2  
Observations About  
Landforms



LESSON 1.3  
Observing Sand Samples



LESSON 1.4  
Gary's Sand Journal

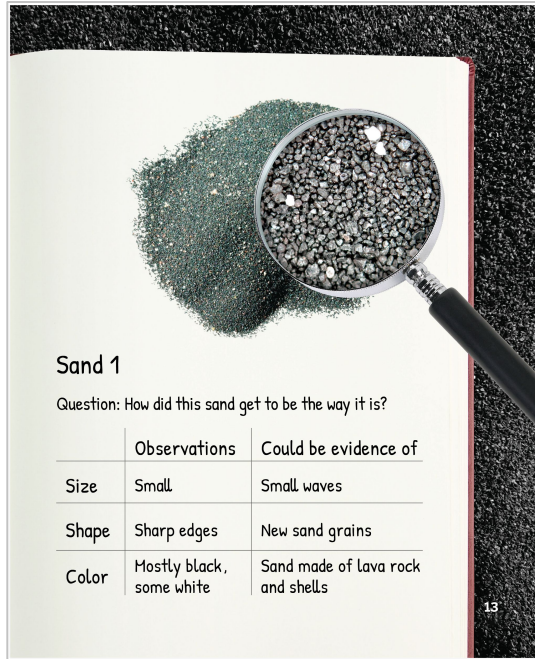


LESSON 1.5  
Making Sense of Sand  
Samples

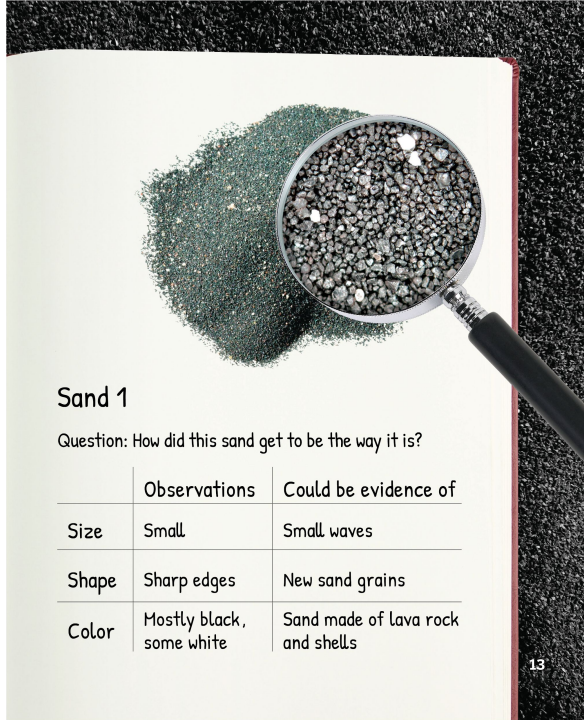


LESSON 1.6  
Explaining Landform  
Changes

## Small write 6: Gary's Sand Journal: Recording Observations in a Table (1.4. Activity 3)



Scientists use **tables** like the ones in *Gary's Sand Journal* to **organize information** they gather when investigating their questions.



Sand 1

Question: How did this sand get to be the way it is?

	Observations	Could be evidence of
Size	Small	Small waves
Shape	Sharp edges	New sand grains
Color	Mostly black, some white	Sand made of lava rock and shells

13

Gary **observed** a **pattern**, something that was similar over and over again, in these grains of sand. Most of them are small. He **recorded** his **observation** in the table.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mystery Sand**

Directions:

- 1. Turn to page 21 in *Gary’s Sand Journal*.
- 2. Look at the photo of the mystery sand and record your observations in the “Observations” column in the table below.
- 3. Record what your observations could be evidence of in the last column.
- 4. When you finish recording your observations, answer the questions on the next page.

**Mystery Sand**

Question: How did this sand get to be the way it is?

	Observations	Could be evidence of
Size		
Shape		
Color		

Turn to page 14 in your notebooks.

As we observe the mystery sand, we’ll look for **patterns** in the sand’s **size, shape, and color**.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mystery Sand

Directions:

1. Turn to page 21 in Gary's Sand Journal.
2. Look at the photo of the mystery sand and record your observations in the "Observations" column in the table below.
3. Record what your observations could be evidence of in the last column.
4. When you finish recording your observations, answer the questions on the next page.

Mystery Sand

Question: How did this sand get to be the way it is?

	Observations	Could be evidence of
Size		
Shape		
Color		

14

Changing Landforms—Lesson 1.4

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Changing Landforms—Lesson 1.4

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15



Complete the table and answer the questions on notebook pages 14 and 15.

# Changing Landforms: Writing in Chapter 1

## Chapters

Chapter 1: How did the edge of the cliff get to be so close to the flagpole? ⓘ



LESSON 1.1  
Pre-Unit Assessment



LESSON 1.2  
Observations About  
Landforms



LESSON 1.3  
Observing Sand Samples



LESSON 1.4  
Gary's Sand Journal



LESSON 1.5  
Making Sense of Sand  
Samples



LESSON 1.6  
Explaining Landform  
Changes



## Small write 7: Making Sense of Sand Samples: Recording Observations of our Samples (1.5)



We'll use our **Sand Sample Cards** to make careful observations of sand, just like Gary did, in order to explain how the sand got to be the way it is.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_




**Sand Observations**

1. In the box below, draw two or three sand grains that look like the sand grains in your sample.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sand Observations (continued)**

3. Circle the **shape** below that looks like most of the sand grains in your sample.

<b>sharp edges, not rounded</b>	<b>a little rounded</b>	<b>very rounded</b>
		

4. What **colors** are the sand grains in your sample?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Turn to pages 20–21 in your notebooks.

We'll **observe** our sand samples with hand lenses, and then **record** our observations.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sand Observations**

1. In the box below, draw two or three sand grains that look like the sand grains in your sample.

2. Circle the word that best describes the size of the sand grains in your sample.




tiny

20

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sand Observations (continued)**

3. Circle the **shape** below that looks like most of the sand grains in your sample.

sharp edges, not rounded	a little rounded	very rounded
		

4. What **colors** are the sand grains in your sample?

Changing Landforms—Lesson 1.5

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21



Observe your samples and record your observations.




Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sand Observations**  
 1. In the box below, draw two or three sand grains that look like the sand grains in your sample.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sand Observations (continued)**  
 3. Circle the **shape** below that looks like most of the sand grains in your sample.  

sharp edges, not rounded

a little rounded

very rounded

2. Circle the **size** below that looks like most of the sand grains in your sample.  

tiny

small

medium

large

4. What **colors** are the sand grains in your sample?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

20
 

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Changing Landforms—Lesson 1.5
 21



Share your sand observations with a partner who observed the same type of sand.

## Small write 8: Making Sense of Sand Samples: Completing a Table and Writing about Sand Samples (1.5)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Explaining Sand Samples**

Directions:

1. Record observations of your sand in the "Observations" column.
2. Record what your observations could be evidence of in the last column.  
Use *Gary's Sand Journal* to help you.
3. On the next page, explain how your sand got to be the way it is, using the observations and evidence you recorded in the table.

	Observations	Could be evidence of
Size		
Shape		
Color		

22 Changing Landforms—Lesson 1.5  
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Turn to page 22 in your notebooks.

This **table** is similar to the tables in *Gary's Sand Journal* and the one we completed about the **mystery sand**.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Explaining Sand Samples (continued)

**Question:** How did your sand get to be the way it is?

The size of my sand grains is \_\_\_\_\_.

They are this size because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The shape of my sand grains is \_\_\_\_\_.

They are this shape because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The colors of my sand grains are \_\_\_\_\_.

They are these colors because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

After filling in the table,  
you'll **complete the**  
**statements** on page 23.

Observation and Evidence Words

Size Words	Shape Words
small medium big	rounded a little rounded jagged pointy sharp smooth
Color Words	
red brown black orange yellow white	



**Complete** pages 22–23  
in your notebooks, using  
these words and the  
sand observations you  
made on pages 20–21.

# Changing Landforms: Writing in Chapter 1

## Chapters

Chapter 1: How did the edge of the cliff get to be so close to the flagpole? ⓘ



LESSON 1.1  
Pre-Unit Assessment



LESSON 1.2  
Observations About  
Landforms



LESSON 1.3  
Observing Sand Samples



LESSON 1.4  
Gary's Sand Journal



LESSON 1.5  
Making Sense of Sand  
Samples



LESSON 1.6  
Explaining Landform  
Changes



## Small write 9 : Explaining Landform Changes: Analyzing Observational Data and Writing Explanations (1.6)

### What Is a Scientific Explanation?

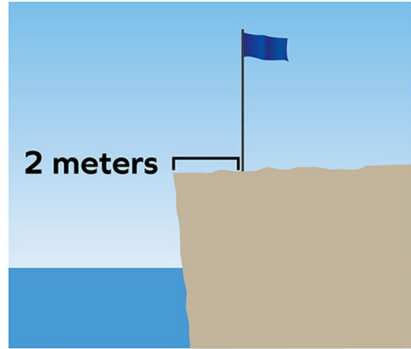
1. It answers a question.
2. It is based on science ideas you have learned.
3. It is shared with someone.

**Scientific Explanation:  
Changes to the Cliff**

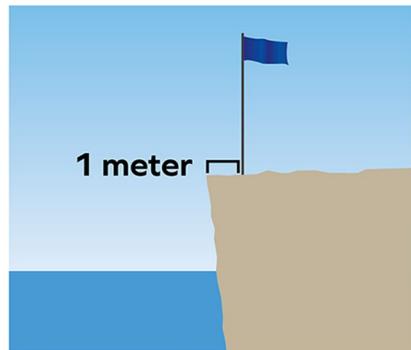
**Question:** How did the edge of the cliff get to be so close to the flagpole?

Together, we will **write a scientific explanation** to answer the question on this chart.

**A long time ago**



**Now**



How do you think the edge of the cliff got to be so close to the flagpole?

### Scientific Explanation: Changes to the Cliff

**Question:** How did the edge of the cliff get to be so close to the flagpole?



Let's begin **writing our explanation**, based on our discussions.

## Sample Shared Write: End of chapter explanation

**Question:** How did the edge of the cliff get to be so close to the flagpole?

The edge of the cliff is closer to the flagpole because the cliff changed shape. A cliff is a landform, and landforms are made of rock. We know that rock can change shape and because the cliff is made of rock, it can change shape, too.

# Reflecting on the small writes

How did the short writing opportunities in this chapter support students as they worked towards writing the more formal end-of-chapter explanation?

## Small Writes

Writing explanations about what students know about landforms

Activating prior knowledge using the Anticipatory Chart

Creating, labeling, and writing a diagram of a landform

Recording observations of landforms from text and investigations

Recording possible evidence for observations

# What were the different types of writing in Chapter 1?



## Small Writes

Writing explanations about what students know about landforms

Activating prior knowledge using the Anticipatory Chart

Creating, labeling, and writing a diagram of a landform

Recording observations of landforms from text and investigations

Recording possible evidence for observations

# Writing across a chapter: *Changing Landforms* Chapter 1

Lesson 1.1	Lesson 1.2	Lesson 1.3	Color Codes
<p>Pre-unit assessment: Explaining how did the hole (arch) in the rock get bigger.</p>	<p>Activating prior knowledge using the Anticipatory Chart</p> <p>Creating, labeling, and writing a diagram of a landform.</p> <p>Recording observations of landforms from a text</p> <p>Revising diagrams based on new evidence</p>	<p>Recording data from investigations comparing sand samples</p> <p>Daily written reflection</p>	<p>Record data / observations</p> <p>Activate prior knowledge and reflect on understanding</p> <p>Organize and keep track of ideas</p> <p>Explain or persuade</p> <p>Sense making</p>

# Writing across a chapter: *Environment and Survival* Chapter 1

Lesson 1.4	Lesson 1.5	Lesson 1.6	
Getting Ready to Read: Gary's Journal Sharing Ideas	Recording information from Investigation of Sand Samples	Check for Understanding	Record data / observations
Recording observations from photos and possible evidence	Writing about Sand samples using evidence from text and observation from investigations	Write a scientific explanation about how the edge of the cliff get to be so close to the flagpole	Reflect on understanding
Multiple Meaning Words: Gary's Journal		Daily written reflection	Organize or keep track of ideas
Daily written reflection	Daily written reflection		Explain or Persuade
			Sense making

# Writing across a chapter: *Changing Landforms* Chapter 1

Lesson 1.1	Lesson 1.2	Lesson 1.3	Color Codes
<p>Pre-unit assessment: Explaining how did the hole (arch) in the rock get bigger.</p>	<p>Activating prior knowledge using the Anticipatory Chart</p> <p>Creating, labeling, and writing a diagram of a landform.</p> <p>Recording observations of landforms from a text</p> <p>Revising diagrams based on new evidenc</p>	<p>Recording data from investigations comparing sand samples</p> <p>Daily written reflection</p>	<p>Record data / observations</p> <p>Activate prior knowledge and reflect on understanding</p> <p>Organize and keep track of ideas</p> <p>Explain or persuade</p> <p>Sense making</p>

# Writing across a chapter: *Changing Landforms* Chapter 1

Lesson 1.4	Lesson 1.5	Lesson 1.6	
Getting Ready to Read: Gary's Journal Sharing Ideas	Recording information from Investigation of Sand Samples	Check for Understanding	Record data / observations
Recording observations and visualizations from photos and possible evidence	Writing about Sand samples using evidence from text and observation from investigations	Write a scientific explanation about how the edge of the cliff get to be so close to the flagpole	Reflect on understanding
Multiple Meaning Words: Gary's Journal			Organize or keep track of ideas
Daily written reflection	Daily written reflection	Daily written reflection	Explain or Persuade
			Sense making

# Instructional supports

## Sense-making strategies: How are students reading?

- Setting a purpose
- Visualizing
- Making predictions
- Asking questions
- Making inferences
- Synthesizing



# Group Work

## Small write sequences in Chapters 2,3, and 4

- With your group or partner pick a chapter in this unit.
- Chart the small writes within the lessons of the chapter
- Identify what purpose each small write has



# Small Writes in a chapter

## Gallery Walk

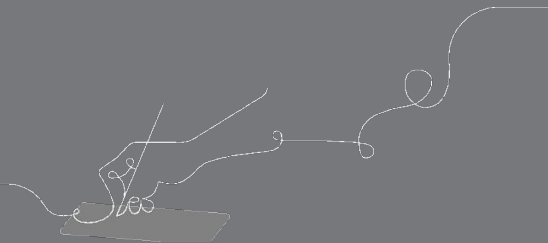


# Key takeaway

As they gather evidence, students engage in writing and discussion. They make sense of evidence they gather through small writes.

Writing is a key part of the multimodal approach as students figure out a phenomenon.

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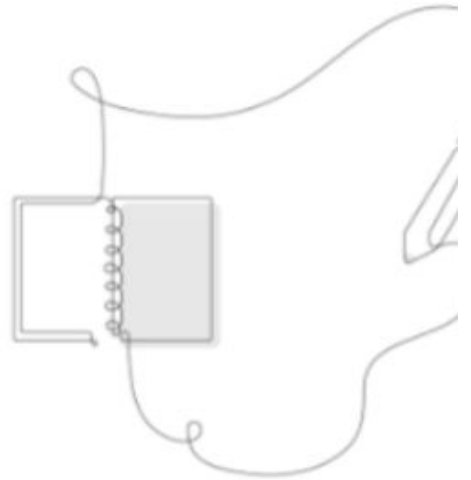
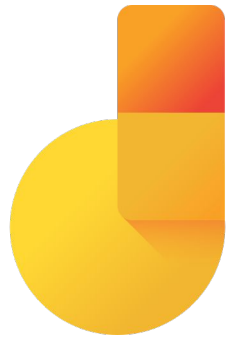
# Break



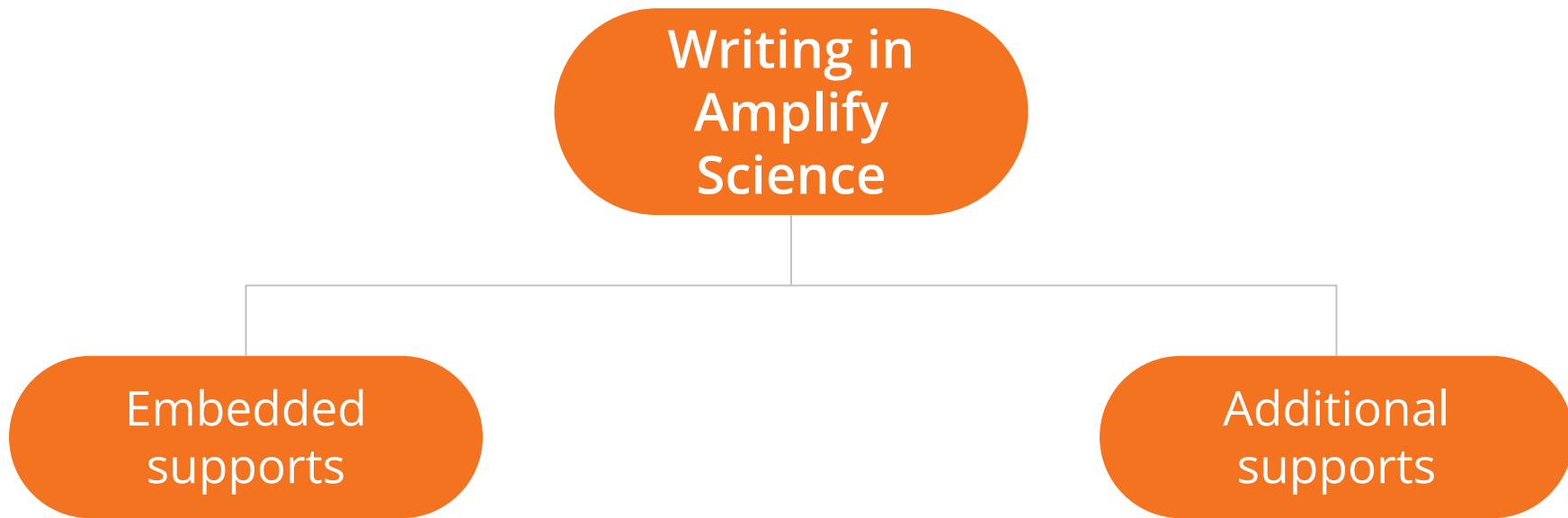
# Plan for the day

- Introduction and framing
- **Writing in Amplify Science**
  - Writing as part of a multimodal experience
  - **Supporting students with writing**
  - Writing a culminating explanation or argument
  - Additional supports
- Model Lesson
- Planning
- Closing

What specific strategies  
are embedded into the  
curriculum to support  
students to write like  
scientists?



# Supporting students with writing

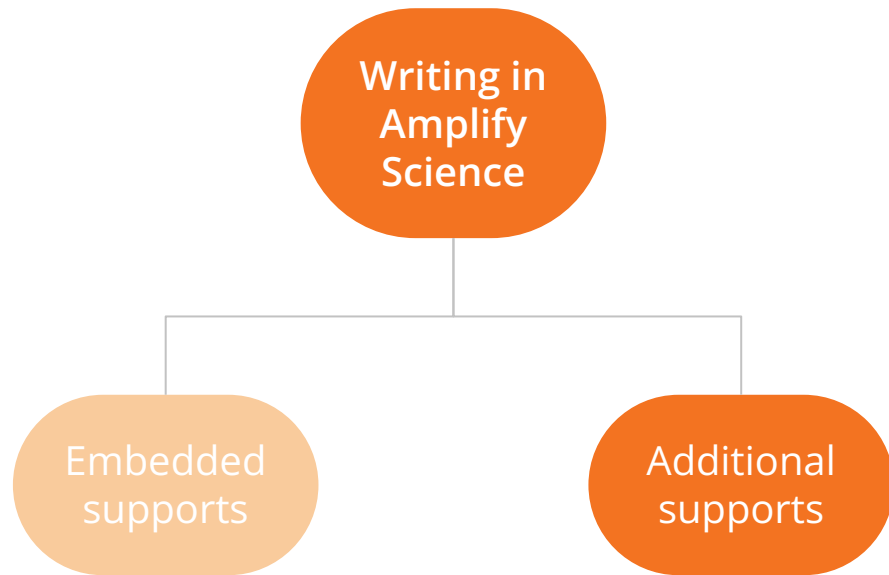


## Embedded writing supports

- Smaller pieces of writing build to larger pieces of writing
- Informal talk opportunities: partners and small groups
- Sentence starters and/or language frames
- Classroom wall and other environmental print
- Word banks
- Discourse routines
- Multimodal instruction
- Gradual release of responsibility

# Supporting students with writing

What additional strategies could you use to support students with writing in Amplify Science?



# Additional supports

- Teacher support notes
- Possible Responses
- Differentiation notes
- Embedded Formative Assessments



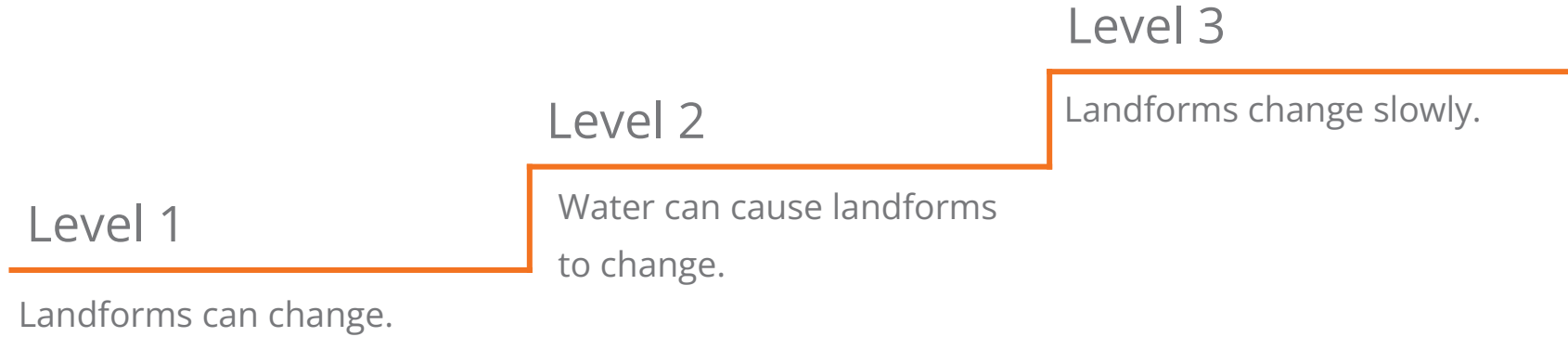


# Plan for the day

- Introduction and framing
- **Writing in Amplify Science**
  - Writing as part of a multimodal experience
  - Supporting students with writing
  - **Writing a culminating explanation or argument**
  - Additional supports
- Model Lesson
- Planning
- Closing

# Environments and Survival Progress Build

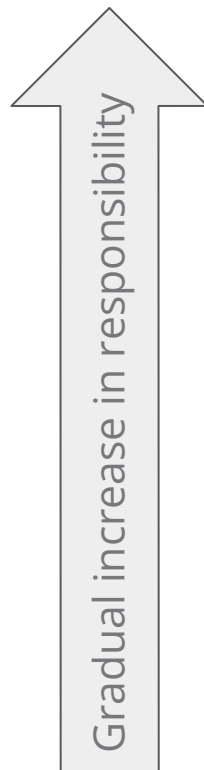
**Assumed prior knowledge (preconceptions):** Students are expected to have had some experiences with rock and understand that rock is hard and can be different sizes and shapes.



Prior knowledge

Deep, causal  
understanding

# Writing Build in *Changing Landforms*



Ch. 4	Review guidelines	Writing a design argument using their knowledge and experiences from the previous chapters
Ch. 3	Review guidelines	Independent scientific explanation which includes more elements
Ch. 2	Review guidelines	Independent writing of scientific explanation
Ch. 1	Introduce guidelines	Shared writing of scientific explanation

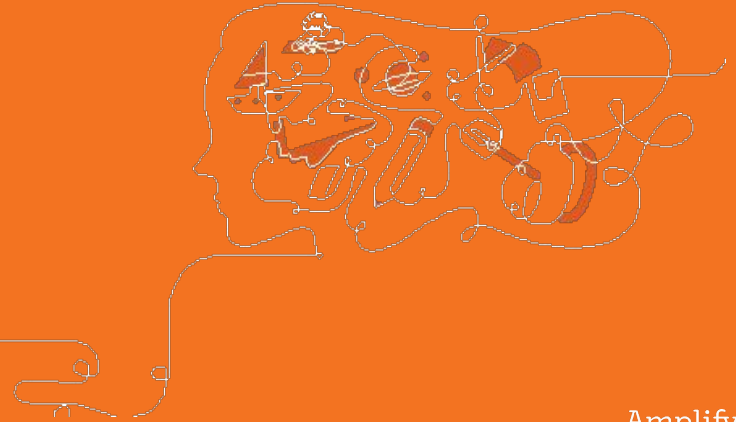
# Key takeaway

Units leverage a **gradual release of responsibility model** for the formal writes.

As students work through a unit, their writing becomes more independent and sophisticated while the science content builds in complexity.



# Scientific Explanations and Scientific Arguments



# Share your ideas!

- **Question:** What do you think the difference is between a scientific explanation and a scientific argument?

An explanation **describes** to an audience **the invisible mechanisms or causes** that led to a phenomena.

An argument is to **convince** an audience that a **claim** (which is usually about how or why something happens) **is the best claim** given what we know.

# Explanations and Arguments

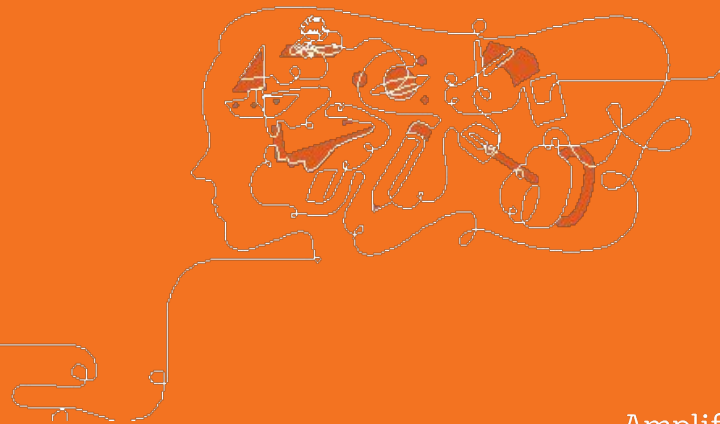
## **Explanation Guidelines:**

1. It answers a question about how or why something happens.
2. It is based on the ideas you have learned from investigations and text.
3. It describes things that are not easy to observe.
4. It uses scientific language.
5. It is written for an audience.

## **Argument Guidelines:**

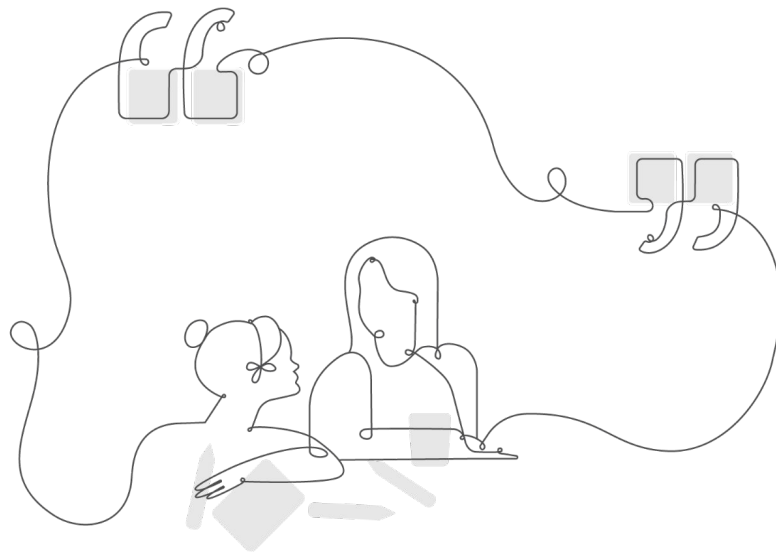
1. It answers a question with a claim about the natural world.
2. It includes evidence to support the claim. Evidence can be data and ideas.
3. It connects the evidence to the claim by linking different pieces of evidence together to show how they support the claim.
4. It uses scientific language.
5. It is written for an audience.

# End-of-Unit Writing: Explanations or Arguments



# Quick poll

Have you explored the End-of-Unit Assessment Guide for any Amplify Science units?



# Rubrics for Assessing Students' Final Written Arguments

## Three-dimensional

- Rubric 1: Assessing Students' Understanding of Science Concepts (DCIs) ] summative
- Rubric 2: Assessing Students' Understanding of the Crosscutting Concept of Cause and Effect ] formative (K-1)  
summative (2-5)
- Rubric 3: Assessing Students' Performance of the Practice of Constructing Scientific Arguments ] formative

## Write Explanations and Create Diagrams


Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## End-of-Unit Writing: Diagramming What Will Happen to the Cliff


Directions:

1. Look at the first picture in the diagram below and read its caption.
2. Complete the second picture in the diagram and complete the caption to explain how the cliff will look 1 year from now. Be sure to draw the cliff where you think it will be in 1 year, and the water.
3. Complete the third picture in the diagram and complete the caption to explain how the cliff will look 1 million years from now. Be sure to draw the cliff where you think it will be in 1 million years, and the water.


**Now**



1 year from now



1 million years from now



1. Now, the flagpole is closer to the edge of the cliff than it was a long time ago.
2. In 1 year from now, the cliff will look \_\_\_\_\_  
This is because \_\_\_\_\_
3. In 1 million years from now, the cliff will look \_\_\_\_\_  
This is because \_\_\_\_\_

Changing Landforms—Lesson 3.5

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2

## Write Explanations and Create Diagrams - Application

# Why did the nearby cliff erode overnight?

# Work time: End of unit Assessment Guide

## Become familiar with your EOU Assessment Guide

- What is the prompt for students? (check in the Assessment Guide and in the lesson activity itself)
- What does each rubric assess?

Reflection prompt:

- How could the EOU Assessment Guide help your planning and instruction throughout the unit?





# Plan for the day

- Introduction and framing
- **Writing in Amplify Science**
  - Writing as part of a multimodal experience
  - Supporting students with writing
  - Writing a culminating explanation or argument
  - **Additional supports**
- Model Lesson
- Planning
- Closing

# Supplemental Investigation Notebook Pages

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Daily Written Reflection**

What did you learn from making observations of the images in *Handbook of Land and Water* that was interesting or surprising to you? Why was it interesting or surprising?

\_\_\_\_\_

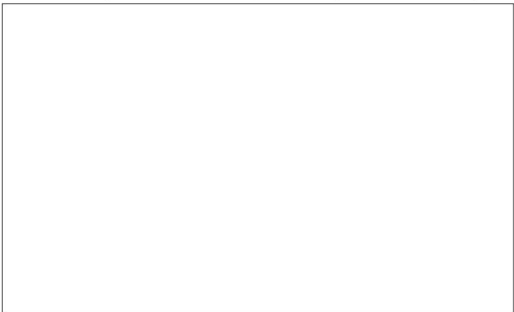
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Make a drawing if it helps you explain your thinking. Label your drawing.



Changing Landforms—Lesson 1.3 (optional) 9

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## Daily Written Reflections

Example question and prompt:

- What did you learn from making observations of the images in *Handbook of Land and Water* that was interesting or surprising to you? Why was it interesting or surprising?
- Make a drawing if it helps you explain your thinking. Label your drawing.

# Supplemental Investigation Notebook Pages

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reading Reflection: *Landform Postcards***

Think of a time when you went on a trip. Did you see any landforms like Annie did? If so, write about the trip that you went on and the landforms that you saw.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you cannot think of a time that you were on a trip and saw a landform, describe a landform that you would like to observe.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Changing Landforms—Lesson 1.1 (optional)

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## Reading Reflections

Think of a time when you went on a trip. Did you see any landforms like Annie did? If so, write about the trip that you went on and the landforms that you saw.

If you cannot think of a time that you were on a trip and saw a landform, describe a landform that you would like to observe.

# Key takeaway

In addition to the embedded supports for student writing, there are resources throughout the curriculum you can use to provide additional support.



# Lunch Break

# Grade 3, Unit 3: Part 1 & 2 Resources



<https://bit.ly/3WAYJzO>

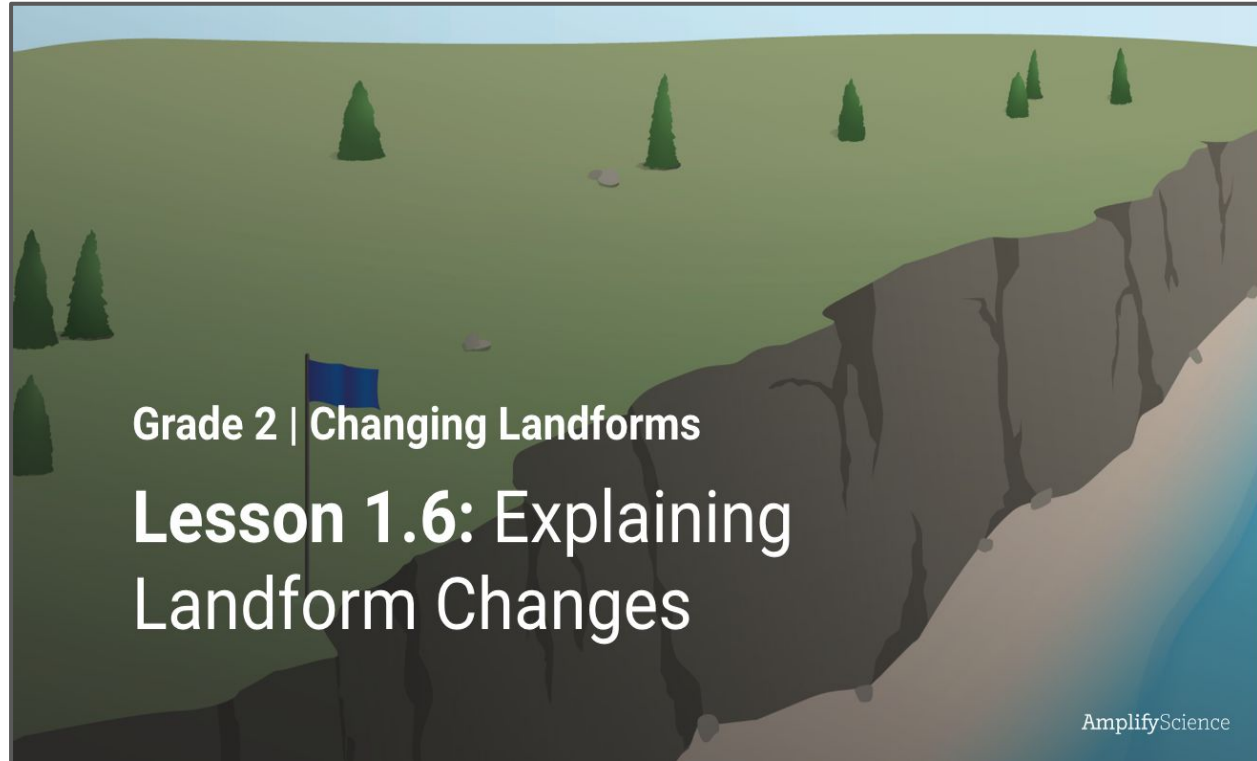


# Plan for the day

- Introduction and framing
- Writing in Amplify Science
  - Writing as part of a multimodal experience
  - Supporting students with writing
  - Writing a culminating explanation or argument
  - Additional supports
- **Model Lesson**
- Planning
- Closing

# Unpacking the lesson

First, let's look at what we need to do before engaging in the lesson.



# Focusing on lesson's purpose

**Teacher tip:** Use the Lesson Overview to get a big picture of the lesson and its learning sequence.


**Teacher tip:** The purpose statement highlights the main reason for the lesson.

**Reflection:** How might the lesson purpose statement help you when you're planning?

**Overview**  
Materials & Preparation  
Differentiation  
Standards  
Vocabulary  
Unplugged?

## Overview

In this lesson, students are introduced to models as another way to gather evidence of processes that cannot easily be observed. The class uses a Hard Candy Model to further investigate how grains of sand can change shape. The model provides evidence to support the idea that rock can change shape. Then, the teacher introduces students to scientific explanations and their importance in science. As a class, students help the teacher write a scientific explanation to answer the Chapter 1 Question: *How did the edge of the cliff get to be so close to the flagpole?* This activity serves as a Critical Juncture through which students demonstrate their understanding of chapter content thus far. This Critical Juncture will reveal students' readiness to move on to the next chapter by determining whether they have gained a foundational understanding that landforms are made of rock and that rock can change. This serves as the first of three Critical Juncture Assessments in the unit. The purpose of this lesson is to introduce students to models and the central elements of writing a scientific explanation.

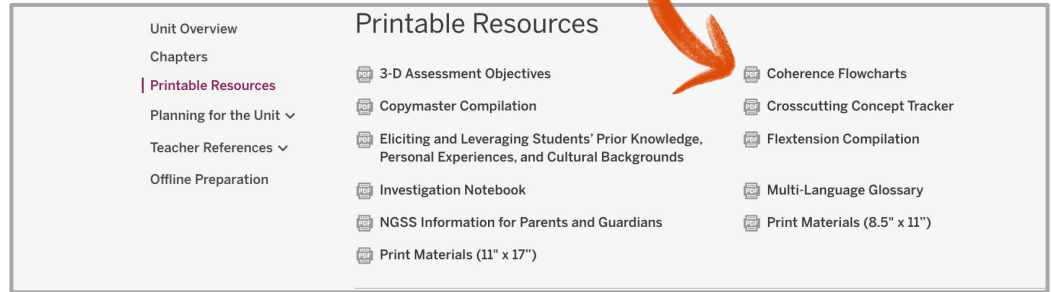


The purpose of this lesson is to introduce students to models and the central elements of writing a scientific explanation.

# Printable Resources

## Coherence Flowcharts

- Navigate to Printable Resources on the Unit Landing Page
  - Open the Coherence Flowchart



**Unit Anchor  
Phenomenon**

*Problem students  
work to solve*

**Chapter-level Anchor  
Phenomenon  
Chapter 1 Question**

**Investigation  
Questions**

**Evidence  
sources and  
reflection  
opportunities**

**Key concepts**

**Application of key  
concepts to problem**

**Explanation that  
students can make  
to answer the  
Chapter 1 Question**

## Changing Landforms: The Disappearing Cliff

The cliff where Oceanside Recreation Center is situated appears to be receding.  
*Why is the edge of the ocean cliff closer to the flagpole than it used to be?*

The flagpole is closer to the edge of the ocean cliff than it used to be.  
*How did the edge of the cliff get to be so close to the flagpole?*

*What are landforms made of? (1.2)*  
(Note: See Lesson Overviews for lesson-level Investigative Phenomena)

*How do geologists figure out how something changed when they can't observe it changing? (1.3-1.6)*  
(Note: See Lesson Overviews for lesson-level Investigative Phenomena)

- Read *Landform Postcards* (1.1)
- Discuss and record ideas about landforms on Anticipatory Chart (1.2)
- Observe landforms in *Handbook of Land and Water* (1.2)
- Return to Anticipatory Chart and revise ideas (1.2)

- Observe sand samples and generate questions about sand (1.3)
- Compare sand samples (1.3)
- Read *Gary's Sand Journal* (1.4)
- Observe a mystery sand (1.4)
- Use evidence from observations of sand samples as evidence for how the sand got to be the way it is (1.5)
- Write and share explanations about sand samples (1.5)
- Use Hard Candy Model to gather evidence that sand and rock can change shape (1.6)

- Landforms are made of rock. (1.2)

- Even if geologists can't see a change happening, they can use models to visualize how it may have happened. (1.6)
- Even though rock is hard, it can change shape. (1.6)

- Write an explanation as a class to answer the Chapter 1 Question (1.6)

The shape of the cliff changed when the rock it is made of changed.

**Unit Anchor  
Phenomenon**

*Problem students  
work to solve*

**Chapter-level Anchor  
Phenomenon  
Chapter 1 Question**

**Investigation  
Questions**

## Changing Landforms: The Disappearing Cliff

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**Application of key  
concepts to problem**

**Explanation that  
students can make  
to answer the  
Chapter 1 Question**

- Write an explanation as a class to answer the Chapter 1 Question (1.6)

The shape of the cliff changed when the rock it is made of changed.

**Unit Anchor  
Phenomenon**

*Problem students  
work to solve*

**Chapter-level Anchor  
Phenomenon  
Chapter 1 Question**

**Investigation  
Questions**

**Evidence**

## Changing Landforms: The Disappearing Cliff

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concepts to problem**

**Explanation that  
students can make  
to answer the  
Chapter 1 Question**


- Write an explanation as a class to answer the Chapter 1 Question (1.6)

The shape of the cliff changed when the rock it is made of changed.

- models to visualize how it may have happened: (1.6)
- Even though rock is hard, it can change shape. (1.6)

## Changing Landforms: The Disappearing Cliff

The cliff where Oceanside Recreation Center is situated appears to be receding.  
*Why is the edge of the ocean cliff closer to the flagpole than it used to be?*

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  - Use Hard Candy Model to gather evidence that sand and rock can change shape (1.6)

# Formative Assessments: Monitoring Students Progress

## Preparing Students For Lesson 1.6

## On-the-Fly Assessments

### Lesson 1.4, Activity 2

- Making meaning of scientific text through the visualizing strategy

### Lesson 1.5, Activity 3

- Rock, including sand can change

Unit Overview	On-the-Fly Assessments at a Glance	
	On-the-Fly Assessment	Assessment focus
Chapters	On-the-Fly Assessment 1: Visualizing (Lesson 1.4, Activity 2)	• Making meaning of scientific text through the visualizing strategy
Printable Resources	On-the-Fly Assessment 2: Discussing How Sand Changes (Lesson 1.5, Activity 3)	• Rock, including sand, can change.
Planning for the Unit ^	On-the-Fly Assessment 3: Using Observations of Models to Explain How Water Changes Rock (Lesson 2.2, Activity 3)	• Water can change the shape of landforms. • Developing facility with the practice of using models
Unit Map	On-the-Fly Assessment 4: Visualizing How Water Changes Landforms (Lesson 2.3, Activity 2)	• Making meaning of scientific text through the visualizing strategy • Water can change the shape of landforms. • Revising mental models in light of new information
Progress Build	On-the-Fly Assessment 5: Diagramming How a Landform Erodes (Lesson 2.4, Activity 2)	• Constructing scientific diagrams • Understanding how a landform erodes • Cause and Effect
Getting Ready to Teach	On-the-Fly Assessment 6: Synthesizing Evidence for How Water Erodes Landforms (Lesson 2.5, Activity 3)	• Water can change landforms. • Water hitting a landform can cause small pieces of the landform to break off. • Using evidence to support ideas • Interpreting data to make sense of phenomena
Materials and Preparation		
Science Background		
Standards at a Glance		
Teacher References ^		
Lesson Overview Compilation		
Standards and Goals		
3-D Statements		
Assessment System		
Embedded Formative Assessments		
Books in This Unit		
Apps in This Unit		
Opportunities for Unit Extensions		
Offline Preparation		

# Formative Assessments: Monitoring Students Progress

## Lesson 1.6, Act. 3

### Critical Juncture Assessments

- Landforms are made of rock.
- Rock can change shape.

Unit Overview

Chapters

Printable Resources

Planning for the Unit ^

Unit Map

Progress Build

Getting Ready to Teach

Materials and Preparation

Science Background

Standards at a Glance

Teacher References ^

Lesson Overview Compilation

Standards and Goals

3-D Statements

Assessment System

Embedded Formative Assessments

Books in This Unit

Apps in This Unit

Opportunities for Unit Extensions

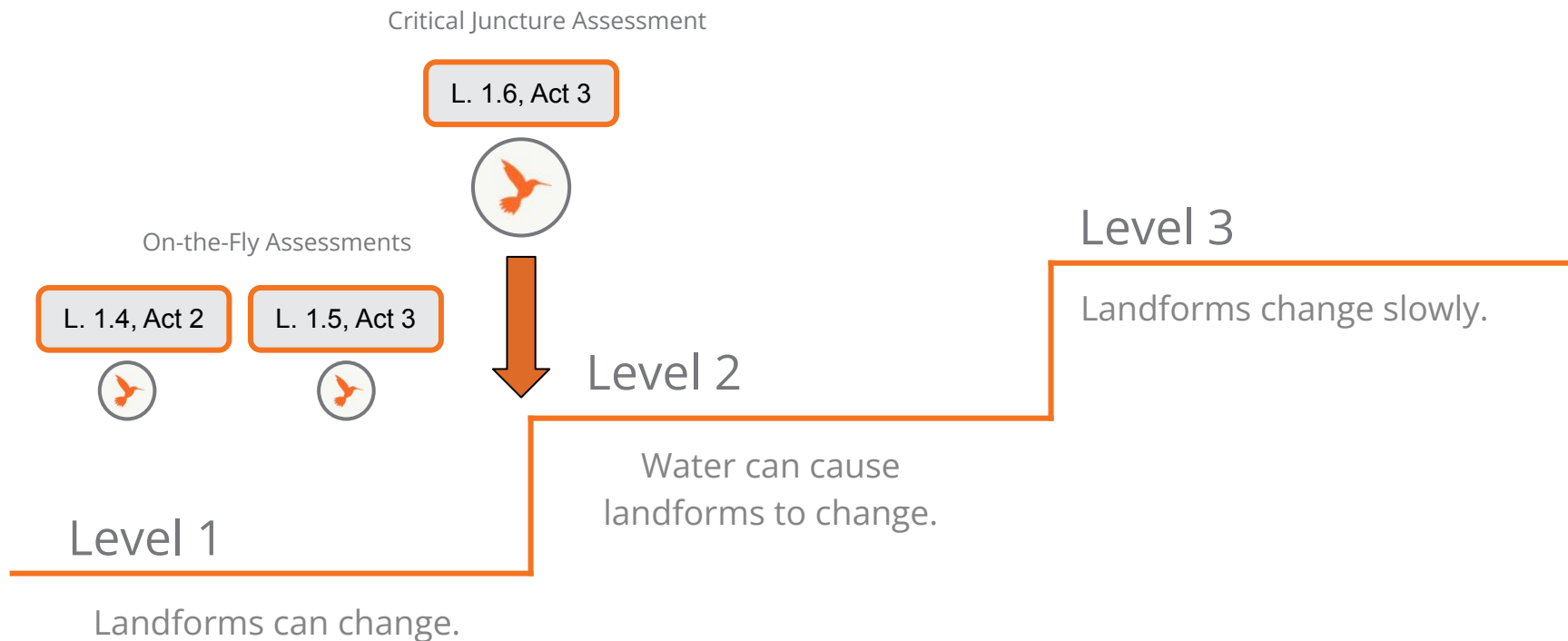
Offline Preparation

level of understanding. The goal of the instructional activities is to ensure that all students reach a level on the Progress Build from which they can all continue on together. The Critical Juncture Assessments at a Glance indicate when in the unit each Critical Juncture Assessment occurs and its focus. See Embedded Formative Assessments (under Teacher References at the unit level), for a more detailed look at how students' progress is assessed and how instruction may be tailored to support the learning of all students.

#### Critical Juncture Assessments at a Glance


Critical Juncture Assessment	Assessment focus
Critical Juncture Assessment 1: How Did the Edge of the Cliff Get to Be So Close to the Flagpole? (Lesson 1.6, Activity 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Landforms are made of rock.</li><li>• Rock can change shape.</li></ul>
Critical Juncture Assessment 2: How Did the Recreation Center's Cliff Change? (Lesson 2.6, Activities 2 & 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The shape of a landform changes when water hits it and causes pieces of rock to break off.</li><li>• Water hitting a landform causes tiny pieces of landform to break off.</li></ul>
Critical Juncture Assessment 3: Landform Change Over Time (Lesson 3.4, Activity 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• When water hits a landform, small pieces of rock break off.</li><li>• Over short periods of time, the small pieces that break off don't cause much of a change to a landform.</li><li>• Over very long periods of time, many small pieces break off, and these small changes add up to a big change to a landform.</li></ul>


# Monitoring Students Progress: On-the-Fly and Critical Juncture




# Planning Lesson 1.6

## Lesson 1.6: Explaining Landform Changes

 Printable Lesson Guide

3 WRITING  
Critical Juncture: Writing a  
Scientific Explanation 







 RESET LESSON

Overview  
Materials &  
Preparation  
Differentiation  
Standards  
Vocabulary  
Unplugged?

### Overview

In this lesson, students are introduced to models as another way to gather evidence of processes that cannot easily be observed. The class uses a Hard Candy Model to further investigate how grains of sand can change shape. The model provides evidence to support the idea that rock can change shape. Then, the teacher introduces students to scientific explanations and their importance in science. As a class, students help the teacher write a scientific explanation to answer the Chapter 1 Question: *How did the edge of the cliff get to be so close to the flagpole?* This activity serves as a Critical Juncture through which students demonstrate their understanding of chapter content thus far. This Critical Juncture will reveal students' readiness to move on to the next chapter by determining whether they have gained a foundational understanding that landforms are made of rock and that rock can change. This serves as the first of three Critical Junctures Assessments in the unit. The purpose of this lesson is to

### Digital Resources

-  Classroom Slides 1.6 | PowerPoint
-  Classroom Slides 1.6 | Google Slides
-  All Projections
-  Scientific Explanation: Changes to the Cliff chart
-  Changing Landforms Investigation Notebook, pages 24–25
-  Eliciting and Leveraging Students' Prior Knowledge, Personal Experiences, and Cultural Backgrounds

# Planning Lesson 1.6

## Lesson Brief

**Step 1:** Download the **Classroom Slides** and review them.

Lesson 1.6:  
Explaining Landform  
Changes

Printable Lesson Guide

3 WRITING  
Critical Juncture: Writing a  
Scientific Explanation

RESET LESSON

Overview

Materials & Preparation

Differentiation

Standards

Vocabulary

Unplugged?

Overview

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# Planning Lesson 1.6

## Lesson Brief

### Step 2: Read the Overview.

**The Purpose of this Lesson:** To introduce students to models and the central elements of writing a scientific explanation.

### Learning Objectives:

- A model can help scientists answer questions about the real world.
- Even if geologists can't see a change happening, they can use models to visualize how it may have happened.
- Even though rock is hard, it can change shape.
- Scientists write scientific explanations to explain how things work or why something happens.
- A scientific explanation answers a question, is based on science ideas, and is shared with someone.

Overview


Materials & Preparation

Differentiation

Standards

Vocabulary

Unplugged?



## Overview

In this lesson, students are introduced to models as another way to gather evidence of processes that cannot easily be observed. The class uses a Hard Candy Model to further investigate how grains of sand can change shape. The model provides evidence to support the idea that rock can change shape. Then, the teacher introduces students to scientific explanations and their importance in science. As a class, students help the teacher write a scientific explanation to answer the Chapter 1 Question: *How did the edge of the cliff get to be so close to the flagpole?* This activity serves as a Critical Juncture through which students demonstrate their understanding of chapter content thus far. This Critical Juncture will reveal students' readiness to move on to the next chapter by determining whether they have gained a foundational understanding that landforms are made of rock and that rock can change. This serves as the first of three Critical Juncture Assessments in the unit. The purpose of this lesson is to introduce students to models and the central elements of writing a scientific explanation.







**Unit Anchor Phenomenon:** The cliff where Oceanside Recreation Center is situated appears to be receding.

**Chapter-level Anchor Phenomenon:** The flagpole is closer to the edge of the ocean cliff than it used to be.

**Students learn:**

- A model can help scientists answer questions about the real world.
- Even if geologists can't see a change happening, they can use models to visualize how it may have happened.
- Even though rock is hard, it can change shape.
- Scientists write scientific explanations to explain how things work or why something happens.
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# Quick check:

## Lesson timing and pacing

How much time do you have in your schedule for each science lesson?



# Lesson at a Glance: Pacing

- Are there activities that might take slightly more or less time?
- Should you split the lesson over two days?

	<b>Lesson at a Glance</b>
<b>Overview</b>	<b>1: Gathering Evidence from a Hard Candy Model (20 min.)</b> Students learn that models are another way geologists visualize how something changed when they can't observe it changing. Then, students gather more evidence that rock can change.
<b>Materials &amp; Preparation</b>	<b>2: Considering the Cliff (10 min.)</b> The class revisits the Hard Candy Model to conclude that rock can change shape.
<b>Differentiation</b>	<b>3: Critical Juncture: Writing a Scientific Explanation (30 min.)</b> The teacher introduces guidelines for writing a scientific explanation and guides students in composing an explanation to answer the Chapter 1 Question. The teacher listens to students' discussions to gauge students' understanding that landforms are made of rock and that rock can change. This Critical Juncture also serves as a formative assessment: It provides teachers the opportunity to assess students' learning of key unit content before proceeding with the unit.
<b>Standards</b>	
<b>Vocabulary</b>	
<b>Unplugged?</b>	

# Lesson at a Glance: Pacing

## Day 1: (30 minutes)

Act 1: Gathering Evidence from a Hard Candy Model (20 min)  
Act 2: Considering the Cliff (10 min)

## Day 2: (35 minutes)

Act 3: Critical Juncture: Writing a Scientific Explanation (30 min)

### Overview

Materials &  
Preparation

Differentiation

Standards

Vocabulary

Unplugged?

### Lesson at a Glance

1: Gathering Evidence from a Hard Candy Model (20 min.)

Students learn that models are another way geologists visualize how something changed when they can't observe it changing. Then, students gather more evidence that rock can change.

2: Considering the Cliff (10 min.)

The class revisits the Hard Candy Model to conclude that rock can change shape.

3: Critical Juncture: Writing a Scientific Explanation (30 min.)

The teacher introduces guidelines for writing a scientific explanation and guides students in composing an explanation to answer the Chapter 1 Question. The teacher listens to students' discussions to gauge students' understanding that landforms are made of rock and that rock can change. This Critical Juncture also serves as a formative assessment: It provides teachers the opportunity to assess students' learning of key unit content before proceeding with the unit.

# Planning for Pacing - Changing Landforms (Example)

Sample time in my Science block.	Day 1 (30 min)	Day 2 (35 min)	Day 3 (30 min)	Day 4 (40 min)	Day 5 (35 min)
	<b>1.6: Explaining Landform Changes</b>  Activity 1: Gathering Evidence from a Hard Candy Model (20 min.)  Activity 2: Considering the Cliff (10 min)	<b>1.6: cont.</b>  Activity 3: Critical Juncture: Writing a Scientific Explanation (30 min.)	<b>2.1 Diagramming Landform Changes</b>  Activity 1: Returning to the Cliff (10 min.)  Activity 2: Diagramming Landform Changes (20 min)	<b>2.1 cont.</b>  Activity 3: Observing Landform Changes (30 min)  <b>2.2: Modeling Landform Changes</b>  Activity 1: Considering How Water Changes Landforms (10 min)	<b>2.2: cont.</b>  Activity 2: Modeling Landform Changes (35 min)

## Week 1 Pacing

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday



<http://bit.ly/3Xx4S18>

# Planning Lesson 1.6

## Lesson Brief

**Step 3:** Read the **Materials and Preparation** Document

Overview

**Materials & Preparation**

Differentiation

Standards

Vocabulary

Unplugged?



## Materials & Preparation

### Materials

#### For the Classroom Wall

- key concept: *Even if geologists can't see a change happening, they can use models to visualize how it may have happened.*
- key concept: *Even though rock is hard, it can change shape.*
- 2 vocabulary cards: *explanation, model*

#### For the Class

- 8 hard candies, several different colors
- 1 jar with lid, clear plastic
- 1 paper plate\*
- 1 sheet of chart paper\*
- marker, wide tip\*
- masking tape\*

#### For Each Student

- *Changing Landforms* Investigation Notebook (pages 2, 24–25)

\*teacher provided

# Planning Lesson 1.6

## Lesson Brief

Read the **Materials & Preparation.**

For the Classroom

Even if geologists can't see a change happening, they can use models to visualize how it may have happened.

Even though rock is hard, it can change shape.

# explanation

Changing Landforms—Vocabulary—Lesson 1.6—AMP615617.05-2ES  
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# model

Changing Landforms—Vocabulary—Lesson 1.6—AMP615617.05-2ES  
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# Planning Lesson 1.6

## Lesson Brief

Read the **Materials & Preparation**.

Teacher Provided\*

### For the Class

- 8 hard candies, several different colors
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# Planning Lesson 1.6

## Lesson Brief

Read the **Materials & Preparation**.

Overview

**Materials & Preparation**

Differentiation

Standards

Vocabulary

Unplugged?

### Scientific Explanation: Changes to the Cliff

**Question:** How did the edge of the cliff get to be so close to the flagpole?

The edge of the cliff is closer to the flagpole because the cliff changed shape. A cliff is a landform, and landforms are made of rock. We know that rock can change shape and because the cliff is made of rock, it can change shape, too.


### Digital Resources

 Classroom Slides 1.6 | PowerPoint

 Classroom Slides 1.6 | Google Slides

 All Projections

 Scientific Explanation: Changes to the Cliff chart

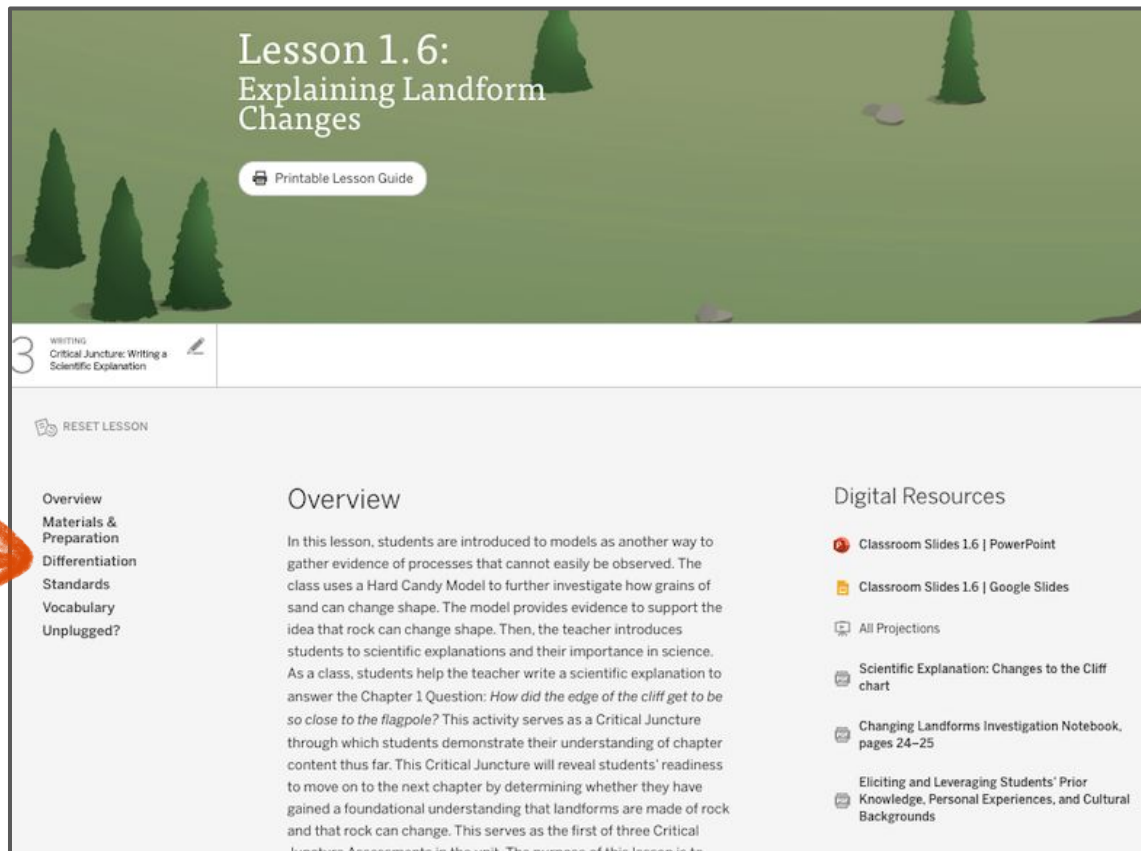
 Changing Landforms Investigation Notebook, pages 24–25

 Eliciting and Leveraging Students' Prior Knowledge, Personal Experiences, and Cultural Backgrounds

# Planning Lesson 1.6

## Lesson Brief

**Step 3:** Read the **Differentiation** document



**Lesson 1.6:**  
Explaining Landform Changes

Printable Lesson Guide

3 WRITING  
Critical Juncture: Writing a Scientific Explanation

RESET LESSON

**Overview**  
Materials & Preparation  
Differentiation  
Standards  
Vocabulary  
Unplugged?

**Overview**

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**Digital Resources**

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# Planning Lesson 1.6

## Lesson Brief

### Read the **Differentiation**

- Embedded Supports for Diverse Learners
- Potential Challenges in This Lesson
- English Learners
- Students Who Need More Support
- Students Who Need More Challenge

Overview

Materials & Preparation

**Differentiation**

Standards

Vocabulary

Unplugged?

#### Differentiation

##### Embedded Supports for Diverse Learners

**Class discussion of the Hard Candy Model.** The class discussion of the Hard Candy Model, in which students discuss rock changing, acts as a support to help students discuss their ideas about the cliff in the final activity of the lesson.

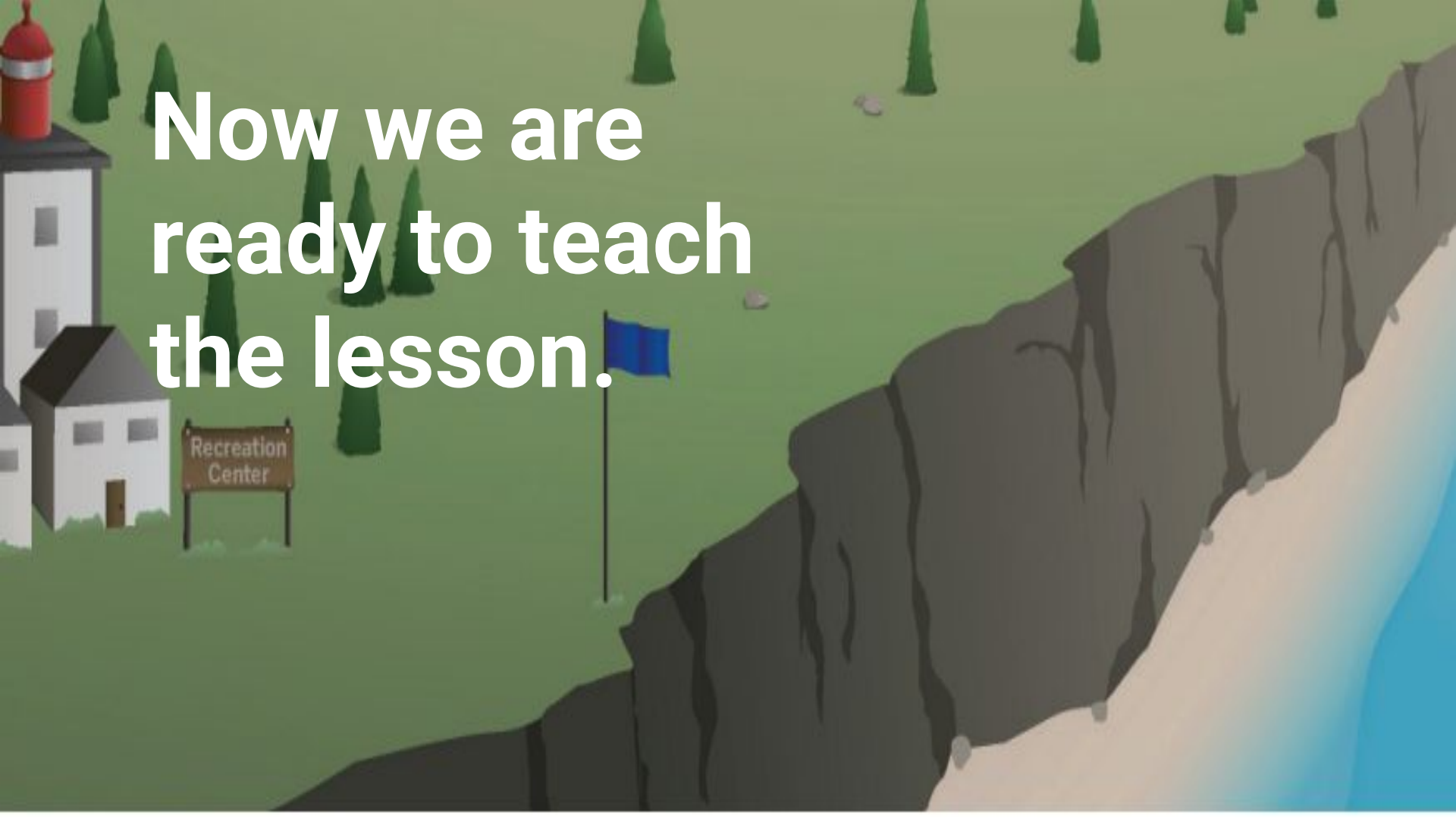
**Modeling how to write a scientific explanation.** Over the course of the unit, more responsibility for writing is released to students over time. In this lesson, the writing instruction is highly scaffolded, since it is the beginning of the unit. You will guide students in writing the first scientific explanation of the unit, explicitly highlighting the features of a scientific explanation. You will guide students in the creation of a topic sentence and then provide prompts to encourage students to further develop their ideas orally. The teacher support for the writing in this unit will gradually decrease as the unit progresses.

##### Potential Challenges in This Lesson

**Transfer of ideas from one context to another.** Students have had multiple experiences investigating how sand got to be the way it is. In this lesson, they will be asked to transfer and apply their knowledge that sand grains can change shape to explain how the recreation center's cliff changed. Applying knowledge that has been gathered from various sources and experiences to explain what is happening in a specific context (the recreation center's cliff) can be a cognitively demanding task.

##### Specific Differentiation Strategies for English Learners

**Promoting inclusion in discussions.** Participating in discussions is critical for English learners to develop science knowledge and the language of science. Some English learners may be hesitant to contribute to class or small-group discussions because they lack experience or confidence in participating in small or large group discussions. However, they have a lot to say. There are several steps you can take to support English learners to fully engage in discussions and to feel that their contributions are valued.



**Now we are  
ready to teach  
the lesson.**



Grade 2 | Changing Landforms

# Lesson 1.6: Explaining Landform Changes

## Activity 1

# Gathering Evidence from a Hard Candy Model



Remember that we are investigating this question:

How do geologists figure out how something changed when they can't observe it changing?



When we investigated **sand samples**, how did we figure out how the sand got to be the way it is?

When we investigated sand samples, we figure out that \_\_\_\_\_.

We've been making **observations** to help us **visualize** how sand got to be the way it is.

Scientists also use **models** to help them investigate things they cannot observe.

A model is something scientists make to answer questions about the real world.

# Vocabulary



**model**

**something scientists make to answer questions  
about the real world**



These candies represent grains of sand.

We learned that sand can change **shape**. We'll use this **model** to gather **evidence** about sand changing shape.



We'll take turns shaking the jar to represent waves and sand crashing.



**Visualize** what will happen to the **shape** of the hard candies when we shake the jar.

# Hard Candy Model

## Step 1

**Shake the jar hard, ten times.**

## Step 2

**Pass it** to the next person.

## Step 3

**We'll keep going until everyone has had a chance to shake the jar.**





What do you **observe** about the hard candies after they've been shaken up?

I observe that the hard candies are \_\_\_\_\_.



If the **hard candies** in our **model** represent **sand grains**, what evidence does the model give us to support the idea that sand grains can change shape?

The evidence the model gives us is \_\_\_\_\_.

The evidence that the model gives us to support the idea of the sand grains is \_\_\_\_\_.



How is this model **similar** to the real world?

How is it **different**?

The model is similar because \_\_\_\_\_.

The model is different because \_\_\_\_\_.

## Key Concept

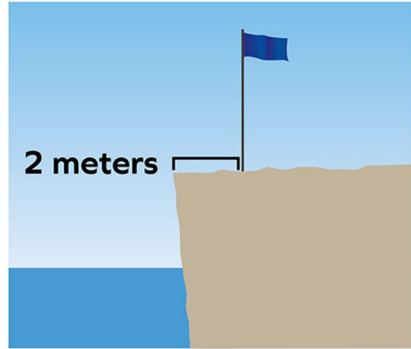
Even if geologists can't see a change happening, they can use models to visualize how it may have happened.

## Activity 2

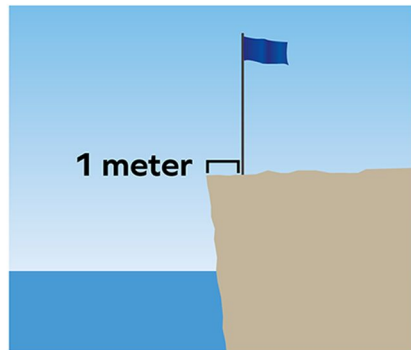
# Considering the Cliff



**A long time ago**



**Now**



Remember, the question we are trying to answer:  
**How did the edge of the cliff get to be so close to the flagpole?**

We're investigating sand to help explain what happened to the cliff.



What **evidence** did we gather about sand that might help us **explain** why the cliff looks the way it does now?

The evidence that we gathered about the sand is \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ helps us explain why the cliff looks the way it does now.

Let's return to the Hard Candy Model to visualize rock changing.



If I continue to shake the jar, what will happen to the hard candies?

If I continue to shake the jar, the hard candies will \_\_\_\_\_.

We can use the Hard Candy Model to **visualize** something we cannot **observe**: rock changing.

The model helps us visualize rock breaking and changing shape. It provides us with additional **evidence** that **rock can change shape**.

## Key Concept

**Even though rock is hard, it can change shape.**

## Activity 3

# Critical Juncture: Writing a Scientific Explanation



Scientists often write **explanations** about how things work or why things happen.

They write explanations for other scientists and for people who are not scientists, like Director Higgins. In this way, many people can learn from scientists' investigations and thinking.

# Vocabulary



**explanation**

a description of how something works  
or why something happens

# What Is a Scientific Explanation?

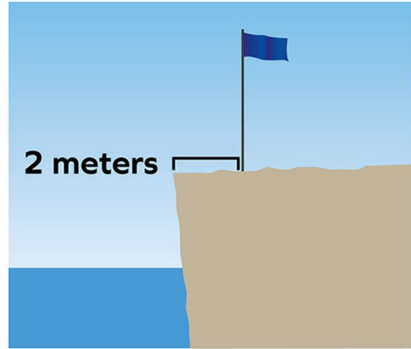
1. It answers a question.
2. It is based on science ideas you have learned.
3. It is shared with someone.

**Scientific Explanation:  
Changes to the Cliff**

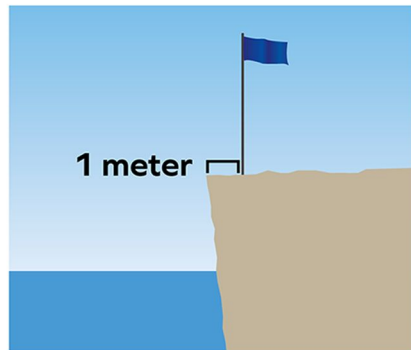
**Question:** How did the edge of the cliff get to be so close to the flagpole?

Together, we will **write a scientific explanation** to answer the question on this chart.

**A long time ago**



**Now**



How do you think the edge of the cliff got to be so close to the flagpole?

### Scientific Explanation: Changes to the Cliff

**Question:** How did the edge of the cliff get to be so close to the flagpole?



Let's begin **writing our explanation**, based on our discussions.

When scientists write explanations to answer their questions, they **support** their answers with **ideas** they learned while **reading** and **investigating**. We can support our first sentence with other ideas.



Let's start by discussing this question.



What do we know about the cliff?

We know that \_\_\_\_\_.

### Scientific Explanation: Changes to the Cliff

**Question:** How did the edge of the cliff get to be so close to the flagpole?



Let's add another sentence to our **explanation**, based on what we just talked about.

### Scientific Explanation: Changes to the Cliff

**Question:** How did the edge of the cliff get to be so close to the flagpole?



Is there more information we can include to **support** our first sentence? What do we know about **rock** that could help us explain?

We know that rock \_\_\_\_\_.

### Scientific Explanation: Changes to the Cliff

**Question:** How did the edge of the cliff get to be so close to the flagpole?



Let's add one more  
**supporting sentence** to  
our explanation.

Then, we can read the  
whole thing out loud.

# End of Lesson



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HALL OF SCIENCE  
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# Plan for the day

- Introduction and framing
- Writing in Amplify Science
  - Writing as part of a multimodal experience
  - Supporting students with writing
  - Writing a culminating explanation or argument
  - Additional supports
- Model Lesson
- **Planning**
- Closing

# Planning for activities

## Personalize Classroom Slides

What slides do not need to be visible to students?  
How will these reflect the timing decision you made? Additions?  
Personalized language?

## Digital Tools

How will students navigate? What might be challenging? What is the key take-away? Do you need to “check-out” devices? Review “Apps in this Unit.”

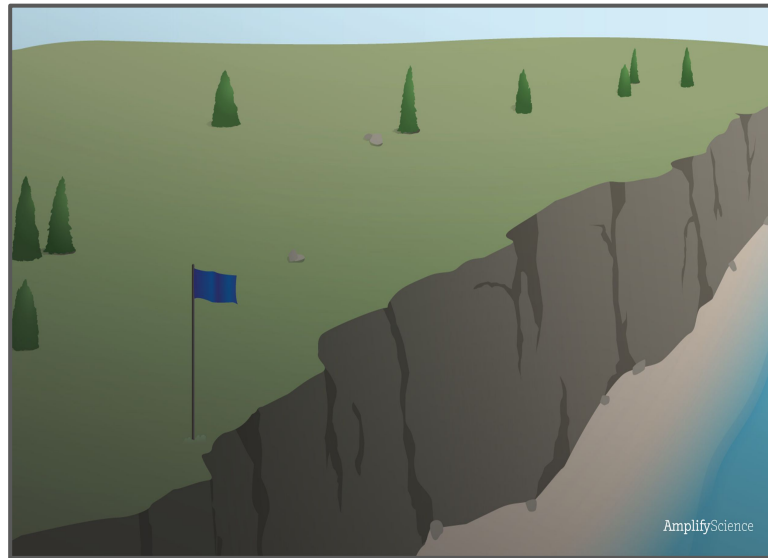
## Hands-on materials

What will you need from the kit? How many will you use? What needs to be set-up in advance? Right before? After?

# Work time: Planning

Navigate to a lesson that you'll be teaching in the upcoming weeks

- **Identify the small writes in the lesson**
  - Analyze their purpose
  - What writing supports are embedded in the activity ?
  - Are there any additional supports you might provide?
- **Download the End-of-Unit Assessment**
  - What does each rubric assess?
  - How could the End-of-Unit help you unit planning and instruction throughout the whole unit



# Share out

- Identify the small writes in the lesson
  - Analyze their purpose
  - What writing supports are embedded in the activity ?
  - Are there any additional supports you might provide?



# Questions?





# Plan for the day

- Introduction and framing
- Writing in Amplify Science
  - Writing as part of a multimodal experience
  - Supporting students with writing
  - Writing a culminating explanation or argument
  - Additional supports
- Model Lesson
- Planning
- **Closing**

# Overarching goals

- ☑ Identify specific characteristics and genres unique to science writing
- ☑ Describe how the Amplify Science writing approach supports students to engage in science practices, make sense of science ideas, and develop as writers
- ☑ Be ready to teach specific writing activities in an Amplify Science unit

**Let's connect  
this goal to  
our students**

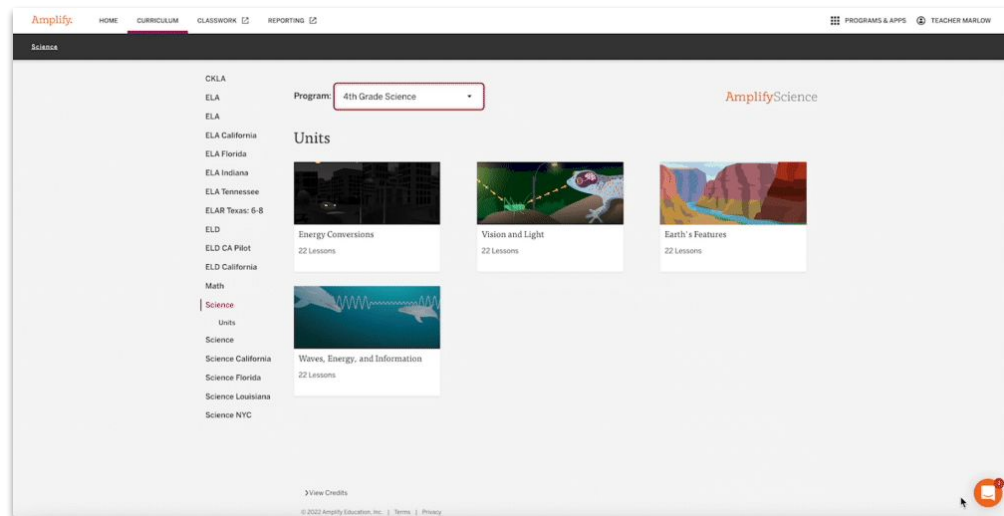


# Additional resources and ongoing support

Seek information specific to enrollment and rosters, technical support, materials and kits, and teaching support.



Amplify Chat



# Additional resources and ongoing support

## Customer Care

Seek information specific to enrollment and rosters, technical support, materials and kits, and teaching support, weekdays 7AM-10PM EST and weekends 10AM-6PM EST.



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