

**Virginia Standards of Learning Assessments  
Grade 3 Science Performance Level Descriptors  
Brief**

Performance Level	Descriptor
<b>Pass/Advanced</b>	The student demonstrates exceptional and consistent attainment of the knowledge and skills necessary to conduct investigations; develop questions; formulate simple hypotheses; use the metric system; identify simple machines; understand energy and matter; compare/contrast the physical and behavioral adaptations of animals; and identify/explain land and water food chains, soil, Earth's patterns and cycles, plant and animal interdependency, and the different sources of energy.
<b>Pass/Proficient</b>	The student demonstrates satisfactory attainment of the knowledge and skills necessary to conduct investigations; develop questions; formulate simple hypotheses; use the metric system; identify simple machines; understand energy and matter; compare/contrast the physical and behavioral adaptations of animals; and identify/explain land and water food chains, soil, Earth's patterns and cycles, plant and animal interdependency, and the different sources of energy.
<b>Fail</b>	The student demonstrates inconsistent attainment of the fundamental knowledge and skills necessary to conduct investigations; develop questions; formulate simple hypotheses; use the metric system; identify simple machines; understand energy and matter; compare/contrast the physical and behavioral adaptations of animals; and identify/explain land and water food chains, soil, Earth's patterns and cycles, plant and animal interdependency, and the different sources of energy.