

**Virginia Standards of Learning Assessment
Grade 8 Science Performance Level Descriptors**

Fail/Does Not Meet	Pass/Proficient	Pass/Advanced
<p>A student performing at this level should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the components of a scientific investigation, the appropriate tools, and the techniques needed to reach valid conclusions using the nature of science. • Define relationships among force, motion, energy, and matter. • Identify organisms by their distinguishing characteristics and their relationships within the environment. • Define the interactions and interdependence among the living and nonliving factors in ecosystems. • State factors that affect Earth and identify interactions within our solar system. 	<p>A student performing at this level should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate the ability to perform a scientific investigation using the appropriate tools and techniques to reach valid conclusions using the nature of science. • Describe and interpret the relationships among force, motion, energy, and matter. • Classify and describe organisms by their distinguishing characteristics and their relationships within the environment. • Categorize interactions and interdependence among the living and nonliving factors in ecosystems. • Explain factors that affect Earth, and distinguish interactions within our solar system. 	<p>A student performing at this level should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and evaluate a scientific investigation using the appropriate tools and techniques to communicate valid conclusions using the nature of science. • Analyze and predict the relationships among force, motion, energy, and matter. • Differentiate and categorize organisms by their distinguishing characteristics and their relationships within the environment. • Analyze and predict interactions and interdependence among the living and nonliving factors in ecosystems. • Summarize factors that affect Earth and differentiate interactions within our solar system.