Middle School Phenomenon Model Course 2 – Bundle 3
The Earth's Place in the Solar System

This is the third bundle of the Middle School Phenomenon Model Course 2. Each bundle has connections to the other bundles in the course, as shown in the Course Flowchart.

Bundle 3 Question: This bundle is assembled to address the question "why can we predict solar eclipses?"	
Summary The bundle organizes performance expectations with a focus on helping students build understanding of why planetary bodies orbit, and what happens when they do. Instruction developed from this bundle should always maintain the three-dimensional nature of the standards, and recognize that instruction is not limited to the practices and concepts directly linked with any of the bundle performance expectations. **Connections between bundle DCIs** The Earth and its solar system consists of the sun and a collection of objects, including planets, their moons, and asteroids that are held in orbit around the sun by its gravitational pull on them (ESS1.B as in MS-ESS1-2). The solar system is part of the Milky Way galaxy (ESS1.A as in MS-ESS1-2) and appears to have formed from a disk of dust and gas, drawn together by gravity (ESS1.B as in MS-ESS1-2). This gravitational force also means that each object in the system exerts a force on the others that can cause energy to be transferred to or from the objects (PS3.C as in MS-PS3-2). Patterns of the apparent motion of the sun, the moon, and stars in the sky can be observed, described, predicted, and explained with models (ESS1.A as in MS-ESS1-1). The model of the solar system with the Earth and moon held in orbit around the sun can explain eclipses of the sun and the moon. Earth's spin axis is fixed in direction over the short-term but tilted relative to its orbit around the sun. The seasons are a result of that tilt and are caused by the differential intensity of sunlight on different areas of Earth across the year (ESS1.B as in MS-ESS1-1). **Bundle Science and Engineering Practices** Instruction leading to this bundle of PEs will help students build toward proficiency in elements of the practice of developing models. Many other practice elements can be used in instruction. **Bundle Crosscutting Concepts** Instruction leading to this bundle of PEs will help students build toward proficiency in elements of the crosscutting concepts of Patterns (MS-ESS1-1) and Systems and System Models (MS-PS3-2 and MS-ESS1-2). Many other crosscutting concepts elements can be used in instruction. *All instruction should be three-dimensional.*	
Performance Expectations	MS-PS3-2. **Develop a model to describe that when the arrangement of objects interacting at a distance changes, different amounts of potential energy are stored in the system.** [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on relative amounts of potential energy, not on calculations of potential energy. Examples of objects within systems interacting at varying distances could include: the Earth and either a roller coaster cart at varying positions on a hill or objects at varying heights on shelves, changing the direction/orientation of a magnet, and a balloon with static electrical charge being brought closer to a classmate's hair. Examples of models could include representations, diagrams, pictures, and written descriptions of systems.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to two objects and electric, magnetic, and gravitational interactions.]

Performance Expectations (Continued)	MS-ESS1-1. **Develop and use a model of the Earth-sun-moon system to describe the cyclic patterns of lunar phases, eclipses of the sun and moon, and seasons.** [Clarification Statement: Examples of models can be physical, graphical, or conceptual.] MS-ESS1-2. **Develop and use a model to describe the role of gravity in the motions within galaxies and the solar system.** [Clarification Statement: Emphasis for the model is on gravity as the force that holds together the solar system and Milky Way galaxy and controls orbital motions within them. Examples of models can be physical (such as the analogy of distance along a football field or computer visualizations of elliptical orbits) or conceptual (such as mathematical proportions relative to the size of familiar objects such as their school or state).] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include Kepler's Laws of orbital motion or the apparent retrograde motion of the planets as viewed from Earth.]
Example Phenomena	Constellations appear in different locations in the sky at different times of the year. The moon sometimes looks round and sometimes like a sickle.
Additional Practices Building to the PEs	**Asking Questions and Defining Problems** • Ask questions that arise from careful observation of phenomena, models, or unexpected results, to clarify and/or seek additional information. Students could *ask questions that arise from careful observation to seek additional information* [about how] ***the apparent motion of the sun, moon, and stars in the sky can be predicted and explained***. MS-ESS1-1 **Developing and Using Models** • Evaluate limitations of a model for a proposed object or tool. Students could *evaluate limitations of a model* ***of the solar system,*** [describing its ability to] ***explain eclipses of the sun and the moon***. MS-ESS1-1 **Planning and Carrying Out Investigations** • Conduct an investigation and/or evaluate and/or revise the experimental design to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence that meet the goals of the investigation. Students could *evaluate the experimental design of an investigation to [see if it can] produce data to serve as the basis for evidence* [that] ***when two objects interact, each one exerts a force on the other that can cause energy to be transferred to or from the object***. MS-PS3-2 **Analyzing and Interpreting Data** • Construct, analyze, and/or interpret graphical displays of data and/or large data sets to identify linear and nonlinear relationships. Students could *construct, analyze, and/or interpret graphical displays of data and/or large data sets to identify linear relationships* [in the] ***energy transferred to or from two objects when*** [they] ***interact***. MS-PS3-2

Additional Practices Building to the PEs (Continued)	**Using Mathematical and Computational Thinking** • Apply mathematical concepts and/or processes (such as ratio, rate, percent, basic operations, and simple algebra) to scientific and engineering questions and problems. Students could *apply mathematical concepts and/or processes* [to describe] ***patterns of the apparent motion of the sun, the moon, and stars in the sky***. MS-ESS1-1. **Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions** • Construct an explanation using models or representations. Students could *construct an explanation using models or representations* [for how] ***a collection of objects, including planets, their moons, and asteroids are held in orbit around the sun by its gravitational pull on them***. MS-ESS1-2 **Engaging in Argument from Evidence** • Compare and critique two arguments on the same topic and analyze whether they emphasize similar or different evidence and/or interpretations of facts. Students could *compare and critique two arguments about how* ***the solar system appears to have formed from a disk of dust and gas****, and analyze whether they emphasize similar or different evidence and/or interpretation of facts*. MS-ESS1-2 **Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information** • Critically read scientific texts adapted for classroom use to determine the central ideas and/or obtain scientific and/or technical information to describe patterns in and/or evidence about the natural and designed world(s). Students could *critically read scientific texts to obtain scientific information* [about how] ***a model of the solar system can explain eclipses of the sun and the moon***. MS-ESS1-1
Additional Crosscutting Concepts Building to the PEs	**Cause and Effect** • Cause and effect relationships may be used to predict phenomena in natural and designed systems. Students could develop and use a model to explain how *cause and effect relationships may be used to predict* ***the differential intensity of sunlight on different areas of Earth across the year***. MS-ESS1-1 **Scale, Proportion, and Quantity** • Time, space, and energy phenomena can be observed at various scales using models to study systems that are too large or too small. Students could evaluate the limitations of *models used to study systems that are* [very] *large* [such as] ***the solar system***. MS-ESS1-2 **Systems and System Models** • Systems may interact with other systems; they may have sub-systems and be a part of larger complex systems. Students could develop a model of the ***causes of the season*** (e.g., summer, winter), and describe the components of the model in terms of *sub-systems that interact and are part of larger complex systems*. MS-ESS1-1

Additional Connections to Nature of Science	**Science Models, Laws, Mechanisms, and Theories Explain Natural Phenomena** • Science theories are based on a body of evidence developed over time. Students could construct an argument about how *science theories are based on a body of evidence developed over time*, [including the theory that] ***a system of objects may contain stored energy, depending on*** [the objects'] ***relative positions***. MS-PS3-2 **Science is a Human Endeavor** • Advances in technology influence the progress of science and science has influenced advances in technology. Students could obtain, evaluate, and communicate information about how *advances in technology influence the progress of science and science has influenced advances in technology*, [using as an example our ability to] ***observe, predict, and explain patterns in the apparent motion of the sun, the moon, and the stars in the sky***. MS-ESS1-1

MS-PS3-2 Energy

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

MS-PS3-2. **Develop a model to describe that when the arrangement of objects interacting at a distance changes, different amounts of potential energy are stored in the system.** [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on relative amounts of potential energy, not on calculations of potential energy. Examples of objects within systems interacting at varying distances could include: the Earth and either a roller coaster cart at varying positions on a hill or objects at varying heights on shelves, changing the direction/orientation of a magnet, and a balloon with static electrical charge being brought closer to a classmate's hair. Examples of models could include representations, diagrams, pictures, and written descriptions of systems.] [*Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to two objects and electric, magnetic, and gravitational interactions.*]

The performance expectation above was developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

Science and Engineering Practices	Disciplinary Core Ideas	Crosscutting Concepts
Developing and Using Models Modeling in 6–8 builds on K–5 and progresses to developing, using and revising models to describe, test, and predict more abstract phenomena and design systems. • Develop a model to describe unobservable mechanisms.	**PS3.A: Definitions of Energy** • A system of objects may also contain stored (potential) energy, depending on their relative positions. **PS3.C: Relationship Between Energy and Forces** • When two objects interact, each one exerts a force on the other that can cause energy to be transferred to or from the object.	**Systems and System Models** • Models can be used to represent systems and their interactions – such as inputs, processes, and outputs – and energy and matter flows within systems.

Observable features of the student performance by the end of the course:			
1	Components of the model		
	a	To make sense of a given phenomenon involving two objects interacting at a distance, students develop a model in which they identify the relevant components, including:	
		i.	A system of two stationary objects that interact.
		ii.	Forces (electric, magnetic, or gravitational) through which the two objects interact.
		iii.	Distance between the two objects.
		iv.	Potential energy.
2	Relationships		
	a	In the model, students identify and describe* relationships between components, including:	
		i.	When two objects interact at a distance, each one exerts a force on the other that can cause energy to be transferred to or from an object.
		ii.	As the relative position of two objects (neutral, charged, magnetic) changes, the potential energy of the system (associated with interactions via electric, magnetic, and gravitational forces) changes (e.g., when a ball is raised, energy is stored in the gravitational interaction between the Earth and the ball).
3	Connections		
	a	Students use the model to provide a causal account for the idea that the amount of potential energy in a system of objects changes when the distance between stationary objects interacting in the system changes because:	
		i.	A force has to be applied to move two attracting objects farther apart, transferring energy to the system.
		ii.	A force has to be applied to move two repelling objects closer together, transferring energy to the system.

MS-ESS1-1 Earth's Place in the Universe

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

MS-ESS1-1. Develop and use a model of the Earth-sun-moon system to describe the cyclic patterns of lunar phases, eclipses of the sun and moon, and seasons. [Clarification Statement: Examples of models can be physical, graphical, or conceptual.]

The performance expectation above was developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

Science and Engineering Practices

Developing and Using Models
Modeling in 6–8 builds on K–5 experiences and progresses to developing, using, and revising models to describe, test, and predict more abstract phenomena and design systems.

- Develop and use a model to describe phenomena.

Disciplinary Core Ideas

ESS1.A: The Universe and Its Stars

- Patterns of the apparent motion of the sun, the moon, and stars in the sky can be observed, described, predicted, and explained with models.

ESS1.B: Earth and the Solar System

- This model of the solar system can explain eclipses of the sun and the moon. Earth's spin axis is fixed in direction over the short-term but tilted relative to its orbit around the sun. The seasons are a result of that tilt and are caused by the differential intensity of sunlight on different areas of Earth across the year.

Crosscutting Concepts

Patterns

- Patterns can be used to identify cause-and-effect relationships.

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Connections to Nature of Science

Scientific Knowledge Assumes an Order and Consistency in Natural Systems

- Science assumes that objects and events in natural systems occur in consistent patterns that are understandable through measurement and observation.

Observable features of the student performance by the end of the course:			
1	Components of the model		
	a	To make sense of a given phenomenon involving, students develop a model (e.g., physical, conceptual, graphical) of the Earth-moon-sun system in which they identify the relevant components, including:	
		i.	Earth, including the tilt of its axis of rotation.
		ii.	Sun.
		iii.	Moon.
		iv.	Solar energy.
	b	Students indicate the accuracy of size and distance (scale) relationships within the model, including any scale limitations within the model.	
2	Relationships		
	a	In their model, students describe* the relationships between components, including:	
		i.	Earth rotates on its tilted axis once an Earth day.
		ii.	The moon rotates on its axis approximately once a month.
		iii.	Relationships between Earth and the moon:
			1. The moon orbits Earth approximately once a month.
			2. The moon rotates on its axis at the same rate at which it orbits Earth so that the side of the moon that faces Earth remains the same as it orbits.
			3. The moon's orbital plane is tilted with respect to the plane of the Earth's orbit around the sun.
		iv.	Relationships between the Earth-moon system and the sun:
			1. Earth-moon system orbits the sun once an Earth year.

		2. Solar energy travels in a straight line from the sun to Earth and the moon so that the side of Earth or the moon that faces the sun is illuminated.
		3. Solar energy reflects off of the side of the moon that faces the sun and can travel to Earth.
		4. The distance between Earth and the sun stays relatively constant throughout the Earth's orbit.
		5. Solar energy travels in a straight line from the sun and hits different parts of the curved Earth at different angles — more directly at the equator and less directly at the poles.
		6. The Earth's rotation axis is tilted with respect to its orbital plane around the sun. Earth maintains the same relative orientation in space, with its North Pole pointed toward the North Star throughout its orbit.
3	Connections	
	a	Students use patterns observed from their model to provide causal accounts for events, including:
		i. Moon phases:
		1. Solar energy coming from the sun bounces off of the moon and is viewed on Earth as the bright part of the moon.
		2. The visible proportion of the illuminated part of the moon (as viewed from Earth) changes over the course of a month as the location of the moon relative to Earth and the sun changes.
		3. The moon appears to become more fully illuminated until "full" and then less fully illuminated until dark, or "new," in a pattern of change that corresponds to what proportion of the illuminated part of the moon is visible from Earth.
		ii. Eclipses:
		1. Solar energy is prevented from reaching the Earth during a solar eclipse because the moon is located between the sun and Earth.
		2. Solar energy is prevented from reaching the moon (and thus reflecting off of the moon to Earth) during a lunar eclipse because Earth is located between the sun and moon.
		3. Because the moon's orbital plane is tilted with respect to the plane of the Earth's orbit around the sun, for a majority of time during an Earth month, the moon is not in a position to block solar energy from reaching Earth, and Earth is not in a position to block solar energy from reaching the moon.
		iii. Seasons:
		1. Because the Earth's axis is tilted, the most direct and intense solar energy occurs over the summer months, and the least direct and intense solar energy occurs over the winter months.
		2. The change in season at a given place on Earth is directly related to the orientation of the tilted Earth and the position of Earth in its orbit around the sun because of the change in the directness and intensity of the solar energy at that place over the course of the year.
		a. Summer occurs in the Northern Hemisphere at times in the Earth's orbit when the northern axis of Earth is tilted toward the sun. Summer occurs in the Southern Hemisphere at times in the Earth's orbit when the southern axis of Earth is tilted toward the sun.
		b. Winter occurs in the Northern Hemisphere at times in the Earth's orbit when the northern axis of Earth is tilted away from the sun. Summer occurs in the Southern Hemisphere at times in the Earth's orbit when the southern axis of Earth is tilted away from the sun.
	b	Students use their model to predict:
		i. The phase of the moon when given the relative locations of the Earth, sun, and moon.
		ii. The relative positions of the Earth, sun, and moon when given a moon phase.
		iii. Whether an eclipse will occur, given the relative locations of the Earth, sun, and moon and a position on Earth from which the moon or sun can be viewed (depending on the type of eclipse).
		iv. The relative positions of the Earth, sun, and moon, given a type of eclipse and a position on Earth from which the moon/sun can be viewed.

		v.	The season on Earth, given the relative positions of Earth and the sun (including the orientation of the Earth’s axis) and a position on Earth.
		vi.	The relative positions of Earth and the sun when given a season and a relative position (e.g. far north, far south, equatorial) on Earth.

MS-ESS1-2 Earth's Place in the Universe

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

MS-ESS1-2. Develop and use a model to describe the role of gravity in the motions within galaxies and the solar system. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis for the model is on gravity as the force that holds together the solar system and Milky Way galaxy and controls orbital motions within them. Examples of models can be physical (such as the analogy of distance along a football field or computer visualizations of elliptical orbits) or conceptual (such as mathematical proportions relative to the size of familiar objects such as students' school or state).] [*Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include Kepler's Laws of orbital motion or the apparent retrograde motion of the planets as viewed from Earth.*]

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- Develop and use a model to describe phenomena.

Disciplinary Core Ideas

ESS1.A: The Universe and Its Stars

- Earth and its solar system are part of the Milky Way galaxy, which is one of many galaxies in the universe.

ESS1.B: Earth and the Solar System

- The solar system consists of the sun and a collection of objects, including planets, their moons, and asteroids that are held in orbit around the sun by its gravitational pull on them.
- The solar system appears to have formed from a disk of dust and gas, drawn together by gravity.

Crosscutting Concepts

Systems and System Models

- Models can be used to represent systems and their interactions.

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Connections to Nature of Science

Scientific Knowledge Assumes an Order and Consistency in Natural Systems

- Science assumes that objects and events in natural systems occur in consistent patterns that are understandable through measurement and observation.

Observable features of the student performance by the end of the course:			
1	Components of the model		
	a	To make sense of a given phenomenon, students develop a model in which they identify the relevant components of the system, including:	
		i.	Gravity.
		ii.	The solar system as a collection of bodies, including the sun, planets, moons, and asteroids.
		iii.	The Milky Way galaxy as a collection of stars (e.g., the sun) and their associated systems of objects.
		iv.	Other galaxies in the universe
	b	Students indicate the relative spatial scales of solar systems and galaxies in the model.	
2	Relationships		
	a	Students describe* the relationships and interactions between components of the solar and galaxy systems, including:	
		i.	Gravity as an attractive force between solar system and galaxy objects that:
			1. Increases with the mass of the interacting objects increases.
			2. Decreases as the distances between objects increases.
		ii.	The orbital motion of objects in our solar system (e.g., moons orbit around planets, all objects within the solar system orbit the sun).
		iii.	The orbital motion, in the form of a disk, of vast numbers of stars around the center of the Milky Way.
		iv.	That our solar system is one of many systems orbiting the center of the larger system of the Milky Way galaxy.

		v. The Milky Way is one of many galaxy systems in the universe.
3	Connections	
	a	Students use the model to describe* that gravity is a predominantly inward-pulling force that can keep smaller/less massive objects in orbit around larger/more massive objects.
	b	Students use the model to describe* that gravity causes a pattern of smaller/less massive objects orbiting around larger/more massive objects at all system scales in the universe, including that:
		i. Gravitational forces from planets cause smaller objects (e.g., moons) to orbit around planets.
		ii. The gravitational force of the sun causes the planets and other bodies to orbit around it, holding the solar system together.
		iii. The gravitational forces from the center of the Milky Way cause stars and stellar systems to orbit around the center of the galaxy.
		iv. The hierarchy pattern of orbiting systems in the solar system was established early in its history as the disk of dust and gas was driven by gravitational forces to form moon-planet and planet-sun orbiting systems.
	c	Students use the model to describe* that objects too far away from the sun do not orbit it because the sun’s gravitational force on those objects is too weak to pull them into orbit.
	d	Students use the model to describe* what a given phenomenon might look like without gravity (e.g., smaller planets would move in straight paths through space, rather than orbiting a more massive body).