

# NGSS NOW

## 6 things to know in April 2024



### 1 New High-Quality Unit Posted

The OpenSciEd *B.5 Common Ancestry & Speciation* high school unit is anchored by the unusual sightings of polar, brown, and black bears in Wapusk National Park. Students investigate why this is so uncommon, consider what this means for the bears as the Arctic warms, and what role humans should play in helping the bears. The unit was awarded the [NGSS Design Badge](#) by NextGenScience's Peer Review Panel.

See the free unit and the corresponding EQulP Rubric for Science evaluation report [here](#). \_



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### 2 Classroom Impact of *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Board on Science Education (BOSE), a panel of teachers shared how the vision of *A Framework for K-12 Science Education* is informing their classrooms and their students' learning experiences.

Watch the BOSE video [here](#).

### 3

## Two New STEM Teaching Tools

### Practice Brief #96: Understanding how food, energy, and water decisions affect the thriving of local, regional, and global systems

Science classrooms are a key place to examine the human and natural systems related to food, energy, and water. This STEM Teaching Tool describes considerations and recommended actions to connect instruction to how students interact with these systems in their community.

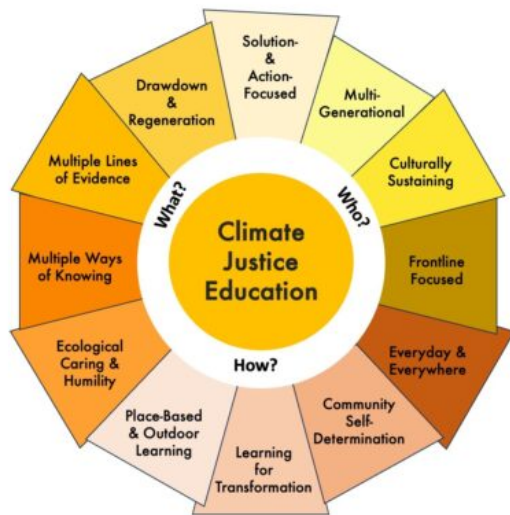
See the practice brief [here](#).



### Practice Brief #97: What is climate justice learning?

Climate justice is an important way to engage students in locally and globally relevant learning. This STEM Teaching tool provides a clear definition of climate justice education through a framework that identifies twelve considerations for incorporating it in instruction.

See the practice brief [here](#).



### 4

## How to Refresh a Dwindling Pipeline of STEM Teachers? Researchers Share Strategies

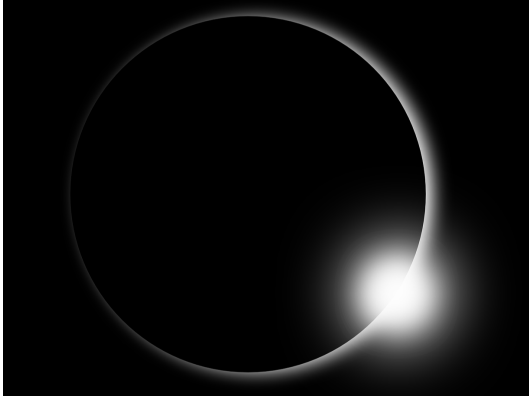
The retention of STEM teachers is a challenge across the country. This article shares strategies that have shown promise to better support STEM teachers and promote their retention in classrooms, including improving pre-service training practices, increased efforts to recruit science majors, and intentional selection of mentors and coaches for new teachers.

Read the EdWeek article [here](#).



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## 5 Eclipses Around the World



To prepare for the upcoming solar eclipse on April 8, the Astronomical Society of the Pacific recently added a “Eclipses Around the World” resource section to their solar eclipse website, which includes not only how to connect science content to solar eclipses, but also resources to connect eclipses to place and culture.

See the solar eclipse resources [here](#).

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## 6 ICYMI: The Relationship Between Elementary Students' Knowledge-in-Use Performance and Their Science Achievement

This study looked at the impact of third-grade students participating in project-based learning designed for the NGSS. The findings suggest that coherence, equity, and effective assessment systems lead to increased student achievement in science.

See the JRST article [here](#).

