

Sample ASSESSMENT QUESTION(S) in this grade:

Math

Have your child draw and describe three characteristics of a rectangle, a square, a triangle, and a circle. Ask your child to find these shapes in their environment.

Science

Find pictures of various living and nonliving objects and ask your child to sort the nonliving things from the living things.

Note: *Students should be able to explain their thinking verbally.*

You and your child may want to try these problems together. If you are interested in additional problems or the answers, please see the <http://mc2.nmsu.edu> website!

What are standards?

Standards are expectations for students and teachers. They are statements that tell what your child should know and be able to do.

Who should I contact to find out more about standards and our schools?

Talk to your child's teacher or principal to learn more about standards based learning. You can also contact the subject area specialists at the New Mexico Public Education Department, Santa Fe, NM.

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What should
**First grade
mathematics
and science**
look like
in your school?



Based on New Mexico
Standards and Benchmarks

What should I see happening in my child's classroom?

Every day, students should be:

- relating math and science to their everyday lives
- asking and answering questions about their surroundings
- solving math and science problems in different ways
- working with other students to solve problems
- writing and talking about their own ideas in math and science
- DOING activities! ... using tools and objects to learn and to show what they know
- using diagrams, graphs, and numbers to show relationships in math and science
- learning that everyone can do math and science

This is called Standards Based Instruction!



Big ideas in First Grade SCIENCE

Scientific Thinking

- Observe and compare relationships between objects (large, small, greater than, less than)
- Use mathematical language to describe observations (numbers, shapes)

Physical Science

- Observe and describe three states of matter (solid, liquid, and gas)
- Observe and explain how energy makes things change (example: heat melts ice)
- Describe changes in motion

Life Science

- Observe life cycles of living things
- Describe the differences between various living organisms (plants, animals)
- Identify differences between living and non-living things

Earth and Space Science

- Observe and describe changes and patterns of the sun and moon as they move across the sky
- Learn about different climates and use tools to measure weather conditions

Science and Society

- Describe how science helps create tools and machines
- Understand that men and women of all races and backgrounds are scientists
- Understand that everyone uses science daily

Big ideas in First Grade MATHEMATICS

Number and Operations:

- Read, write, model, and sequence whole numbers up to 100
- Use manipulatives to explore place value by breaking large numbers apart and putting them back together
- Connect the number words to number symbols (ten = 10)
- Use a variety of methods to add and subtract with one and two digit numbers
- Select appropriate operations to solve simple story problems
- Use estimation strategies

Algebra:

- Recognize, reproduce, describe, extend and create repeating patterns
- Skip count by 2s, 5s, and 10s and look for patterns in the numbers
- Write and solve number sentences
- Describe qualitative change

Geometry:

- Recognize, build, compare, and draw two and three-dimensional shapes
- Use mathematical vocabulary to describe direction, location, space and shape
- Investigate symmetry using slides, flips and turns

Measurement:

- Use appropriate vocabulary to describe length, weight, volume, area and time
- Tell time to the half hour
- Measure using everyday objects and standard measurement tools (rulers)

Data Analysis and Probability:

- Collect, organize, represent and compare data using graphs and charts
- Analyze simple data and make conclusions
- Discuss the likelihood of events