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# Middle School Science Interim Blueprint



IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
ASSESSMENT | ISAT SCIENCE

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## INTRODUCTION

Science Interims are available in two different forms: Testlets and the Comprehensive Interim. Test items are phenomena-based, meaning students will think critically about a natural phenomenon or problem and develop a scientific explanation or engineering solution.

- Testlets contain multiple items relating to either a common Disciplinary Core Idea (DCI), a Science and Engineering Practice (SEP), or a set of grade-specific standards (Stand Alone Interims).
- The Comprehensive Interim Assessment covers content spanning the three-dimensional standards from each grade level.

## TESTLET INTERIMS

### Middle School Interims by Disciplinary Core Idea (DCI)

Domain	DCI Interim Testlet Name
Earth and Space Science	Universe and Stars
Earth and Space Science	Earth's Place in the Universe
Earth and Space Science	History of Planet Earth
Earth and Space Science	Earth Materials and Systems
Earth and Space Science	Plate Tectonics
Earth and Space Science	Water in Earth's Processes
Earth and Space Science	Human Impact on Earth Systems
Life Science	Structure and Function
Life Science	Matter and Energy Flow
Life Science	Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems
Life Science	Ecosystems Dynamics, Functioning and Resilience
Life Science	Inheritance of Traits
Life Science	Common Ancestry and Diversity
Life Science	Natural Selection
Life Science	Adaptation
Physical Science	Structure and Properties of Matter
Physical Science	Types of Interactions
Physical Science	Definitions of Energy
Physical Science	Energy Conservation and Transfer
Physical Science	Wave Properties
Physical Science	Electromagnetic Radiation
Physical Science	Chemical Reactions
Physical Science	Forces and Motion

### Middle School Interims by Science and Engineering Practice (SEP)

- Middle School: Engaging in Argument from Evidence
- Middle School: Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions
- Middle School: Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information
- Middle School: Planning and Carrying Out Investigations
- Middle School: Developing and Using Models
- Middle School: Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking
- Middle School: Analyzing and Interpreting Data

## Stand Alone Interims

These Interims contain items relating to each domain's standards and can be taken at any grade level.

- Middle School Earth and Space Science Stand Alone Items
- Middle School Life Science Stand Alone Items
- Middle School Physical Science Stand Alone Items

## COMPREHENSIVE INTERIM ASSESSMENT

The Science Comprehensive Interim Assessment covers the Idaho State Science standards for grades 6 through 8. The standards are three-dimensional and incorporate Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCIs), Science and Engineering Practices (SEPs), and Crosscutting Concepts. This assessment contains **clusters**, which are multiple items related to one phenomenon and address all three dimensions, and **stand-alone items**, which are single items related to a phenomenon and address one to two dimensions. This blueprint lays out how clusters and items are distributed in the assessment.

### Operational Items by Domain

Domain	# of Clusters	# of Stand-Alone Items	Total Items
Earth and Space Science	1	2	3
Life Science	1	2	3
Physical Science	1	2	3
Total Interim Test Length	3	6	9