


# NGSS NOW

10 things you need to know about the NGSS this month (and a  science fact)



September 2014

In an effort to provide more up-to-date information on the NGSS and helpful guidance for the field, we have revamped our newsletter! We hope you find the included updates, questions, and resources useful. As always, we welcome your questions and input so please feel free to contact us using the form at <http://nextgenscience.org/contact>.

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## Model Content Frameworks Update

A collaborative group of states, classroom educators, administrators, and others with in-depth knowledge of the NGSS began the work to draft Model Content Frameworks in mid-July. The models being developed show possibilities for how curriculum developers, administrators and teachers could structure units across a year that move students toward proficiency on the performance expectations (PEs) associated with each grade band/level by the end of instruction.

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## Educators Evaluating the Quality of Instructional Products (EQuIP) for NGSS

Fourteen state teams comprised of state leaders, district- and classroom-level educators, and professional development providers

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## QUESTION OF THE MONTH



**Q:** Where can I find information on training and professional development for the NGSS?

**A:** Many states and districts

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## Key Message For the Field

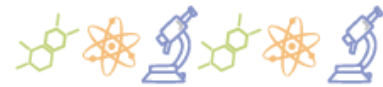
The practice in the PE describes how students are asked to demonstrate understanding at the end of instruction. It does not limit what practices should

recently came together for an NGSS EQulP training. Meeting participants had an opportunity to use the NGSS EQulP rubric to evaluate lessons and units for their grade-band and discipline that were submitted by other meeting participants. Using the rubric in this way not only gave them the opportunity to fully understand the rubric and what high-quality materials aligned to the NGSS should look like, but also to better understand the standards. Additionally, participants who submitted materials received feedback and suggestions for improvement. Find the NGSS EQulP Rubric [here](#).

are holding such trainings. For information on trainings near you, please contact your local district or state department of education. At a national level, the National Science Teachers Association ([www.nsta.org](http://www.nsta.org)) also provides many trainings and webinars.



be used in instruction. For example, if a PE calls for a student to construct an explanation, this merely indicates the assessment expectation for students. In the classroom, a teacher should have students engage in additional practices, such as asking questions and analyzing data. However, it is also important to note that the science and engineering practices in the NGSS are not teaching strategies, but rather, the processes students should be using to learn and apply their content knowledge.



**SCIENCE  
FUN FACT**

The Amazon once flowed in the opposite direction, **from east to west**. Scientists now know [why](#).

**NGSS in the News**

## 5 [New science standards on the way for Calif. schools](#)

By Adam Robertson  
*Daily Independent*, July 31, 2014

"Big changes are coming up for California schools as a new science curriculum is under consideration by the California Department of Education."



## 6 [Science classrooms could soon look very different](#)

By Matthew Albright  
*Delaware Online*, August 2, 2014

"If a third-grade student were to visit Cape Henlopen State Park, they might participate in the 'Wet and Wild Animals' project."

### **Editorial Note:**

Twenty six states helped lead the development of the NGSS; twelve states plus DC have officially adopted the NGSS as their state's science standards.



## 7 [Local science teachers become students for a day](#)

*The Jersey Journal*, July 21, 2014

"This summer, local science teachers were students for a day, as they examined the nuts and bolts of successful science research projects."



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## 8 [Resource of the Month](#)

Confused about the grade banded standards in middle and high school? Not to worry - the middle and high school standards are not officially divided by grade levels. Decisions about how to divide the content by grade levels are up to each individual state and district that decides to implement the NGSS. However, the NGSS writers provided some models for possible ways to divide the grade levels in middle and high school in [Appendix K](#).

## 9 [NGSS Standard of the Month](#)

**[MS-ESS2-3](#): Analyze and interpret data on the distribution of fossils and rocks, continental shapes, and seafloor structures to provide evidence of past plate motions.**

For a more in-depth look at this NGSS performance expectation and to search for others, we encourage you to go [here](#). Need more context? See where these ideas are introduced in [A Framework for K-12 Science Education](#) (pgs. 182-183).

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## 10 [Opinion](#)

*American Physical Society's Committee on Education calls on all states (including Florida!) to*

*adopt the Next Generation Science Standards,*  
by Paul Cottle, August 29, 2014



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