

This document is designed to assist North Carolina educators in effective instruction of the new Common Core State and/or North Carolina Essential Standards (Standard Course of Study) in order to increase student achievement. NCDPI staff are continually updating and improving instructional tools to better serve teachers.

# North Carolina Essential Standards Assessment Examples **Biology**

### What is the purpose of this tool?

Assessment is a vital component of the teaching and learning process. These assessment examples are aligned to new content standards and reinforce teaching the standards to their intended level of deep mastery. The purpose of providing examples is to illustrate ways in which the standards or part(s) of the standards might be assessed in the classroom.

### How do I send Feedback?

We intend the examples in this document to be helpful and specific. That said, we believe that as this document is used, educators will find ways in which the tool can be improved and made even more useful. Please send feedback to us at <a href="feedback@dpi.nc.gov">feedback@dpi.nc.gov</a> and we will use your input to refine our instructional tool. Thank You!

Where are the new Common Core State and North Carolina Essential Standards?

All standards are located at <a href="http://www.ncpublicschools.org/acre/">http://www.ncpublicschools.org/acre/</a>

## **Essential Standards • Biology**

### **Structure and Functions of Living Organisms**

- Bio.1.1 Understand the relationship between the structures and functions of cells and their organelles.
- **Bio.1.2** Analyze the cell as a living system.

### **Ecosystems**

- **Bio.2.1** Analyze the interpendence of living organisms within their environments.
- Bio.2.2 Understand the impact of human activities on the environment (one generation affects the next).

### **Evolution & Genetics**

- **Bio.3.1** Explain how traits are determined by the structure and function of DNA.
- Bio.3.2 Understand how the environment, and/or the interaction of alleles, influences the expression of genetic traits.
- **Bio.3.3** Understand the application of DNA technology.
- Bio.3.4 Explain the theory of evolution by natural selection as a mechanism for how species change over time.
- **Bio.3.5** Analyze how classification systems are developed based upon speciation.

### **Molecular Biology**

- Bio.4.1 Understand how biological molecules are essential to the survival of living organisms.
- Bio.4.2 Analyze the relationships between biochemical processes and energy use in the cell.

	of Living Organisms	
<b>Essential Standards</b>	Clarifying Objectives	Assessment Examples
Bio.1.1 Understand the relationship between the structures and functions of cells and their organelles.	Bio.1.1.1 Summarize the structure and function of organelles in eukaryotic cells (including: the nucleus, plasma membrane, cell wall, mitochondria, vacuoles, chloroplasts, and ribosomes) and ways that these organelles interact with each other to perform the function of the cell.	1.1.1 A runner is competing in a 10 km track meet and just before completing the race, the runner is nearly out of breath and the energy needed to finish the race. Which cell structure is <i>most</i> affected by this lack of energy?  a. nucleus b. ribosome c. mitochondrion d. plasma membrane
	Bio.1.1.2 Compare prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells in terms of their general structures (plasma membrane and genetic material) and degree of complexity.	<ul> <li>What can be used to distinguish between eukaryotic and prokaryotic cells?</li> <li>a. Only eukaryotic cells come from preexisting cells.</li> <li>b. Only prokaryotic cells are the smallest unit of living organisms.</li> <li>c. Only prokaryotic cells contain ribosomes.</li> <li>d. Only eukaryotic cells contain membrane-bound organelles.</li> </ul>
	Bio.1.1.3 Explain how instructions in DNA lead to cell differentiation and result in cells specialized to perform specific functions in multicellular organisms.	1.1.3 <b>Constructed Response:</b> Explain how many of the cells in an individual can be very different from one another in terms of structure and function, even though they are descended from a single cell and thus have essentially identical genetic instructions.
		1.1.3 Nerve cells and bone cells are specialized cells that descend from the same single cell (fertilized egg). Which statement best explains how each type of cell results in a different structure with a specialized function?
		<ul> <li>a. Nerve cells and bone cells begin with the same structure; however, bone cells harden over time.</li> <li>b. Nerve cells and bone cells receive different DNA that determines the structure and function that each will perform.</li> <li>c. Nerve cells and bone cells receive the same DNA; however, only specific parts of the DNA are activated in each cell.</li> <li>d. Nerve cells and bone cells receive the same DNA; however, bone cells receive more to make the protective outer covering.</li> </ul>

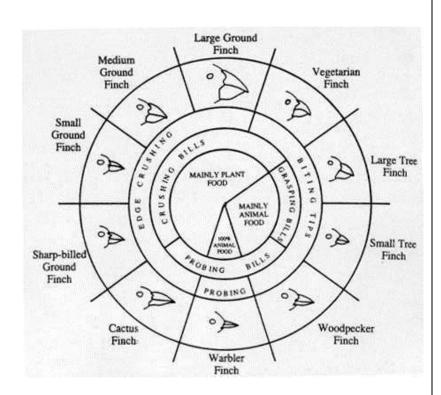
Bio.1.2 Analyze the cell as a living system.	Bio.1.2.1 Explain how homeostasis is maintained in a cell and within an organism in various environments (including: temperature and pH).	1.2.1 The diagram below shows the same type of molecule on side A and side B. Over time, what is the likely result?  Molecules  Side A  Side B  Membrane  a. More molecules will be on Side B than Side A. b. More molecules will be on Side A than Side B. c. Equal number of molecules will be on Side A & B. d. All of the molecules will move towards the membrane.
	Bio.1.2.2 Analyze how cells grow and reproduce in terms of interphase, mitosis and cytokinesis.	<ul> <li>1.2.2 A student observes a typical onion root tip where many of the cells have just successfully completed mitosis. Which statement best explains what must have happened to result in cells that only have half as many chromosomes as all of the other cells in the same section of the tip? <ul> <li>a. The parent cell completed mitosis after undergoing interphase.</li> <li>b. The parent cell completed mitosis after undergoing cytokinesis.</li> <li>c. The parent cell completed mitosis before undergoing cytokinesis.</li> <li>d. The parent cell completed mitosis before undergoing interphase.</li> </ul> </li> <li>1.2.2 Cell cycle checkpoints are proteins that monitor and regulate the progress of the cell cycle in eukaryotic cells. Which statement best describes what would most likely happen if a cell is permitted to progress to mitosis without the preparation stage of interphase? <ul> <li>a. The new cells would have all of the organelles except the nucleus.</li> <li>b. The new cells would have all of the organelles except the mitochondria.</li> <li>c. The number of chromosomes in the daughter cells would be the same as the number of chromosomes in the parent cell.</li> <li>d. The number of chromosomes in the daughter cells would be different from the number of chromosomes in the parent cell.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Bio.1.2.3 Explain how specific cell adaptations help cells	1.2.3	A single-celled organism is placed in fresh water. The contractile
survive in particular environments (focus on unicellular		vacuole pumps excess water out of the cell. How does this action
organisms).		help the organism to survive?
		a. It helps the organism maintain a stable internal environment.
		b. It helps the organism communicate with other cells.
		c. It helps the organism reproduce.
		d. It helps the organism convert energy.

	Ecosystems				
<b>Essential Standards</b>	Clarifying Objectives	Assessment Examples			
Bio.2.1 Analyze the interdependence of living organisms within their environments.	Bio.2.1.1 Analyze the flow of energy and cycling of matter (water, carbon, nitrogen and oxygen) through ecosystems relating the significance of each to maintaining the health and sustainability of an ecosystem.	2.1.1 The diagram shows a glass container covered with plastic.    light			
		The diagram shows a thriving ecosystem. Analyze the flow of energy and cycling of matter through the system.  1. Use your analysis of the system and briefly tell how carbon is related to the flow of energy and cycling of matter between the environment and the organisms.			
		<ul> <li>In your answer include the following information:</li> <li>Name the carbon compound that is exchanged between plants and their environment and tell how this is significant to maintaining the health and stability of the ecosystem.</li> <li>Describe how plants use carbon from the atmosphere to create more complex molecules.</li> <li>Describe how animals that eat plants change these molecules and</li> </ul>			

	return carbon to the atmosphere.  Describe the direction of flow of energy through the ecosystem.  If more snails are added to the ecosystem, what effect would that have on the plants in the container?						
Bio.2.1.2 Analyze the survival and reproductive success of organisms in terms of behavioral, structural, and reproductive adaptations.	2.1.2			haracteristi	cs		
			Characteristics	Insect- Pollinated Plants	Wind- or Water- Pollinated Plants		
			Appearance	often colorful	plain		
			Reproductive parts	sometimes hidden	exposed		
	The differences in the above characterisites of flower specilikely resulted from <b>a.</b> adaptations in response to different environmenta  b. parasitism, which did not harm the host species.  c. defensive mutations allowing concealment of species  d. mutualism between different plant species.						
	2.1.2	dig a shed	a layer of skin, wr ction, and wait for	nd bury ther cap it around	nselves. Sor d themselve	metimes frogs will s for more	
		b. Т с. Т	This adaptation at This adaptation attr This adaptation hel This adaptation aid	racts other flps the frog	frogs for ma find food.	ting.	

2.1.2



Darwin's studies of finches on the Galapagos Islands suggest that the finches' differences in beak structure were most directly due to

- a. acquired characteristics in the parent finches
- b. mating behaviors of the different finch species
- c. the size of the island where the finches live
- d. adaptations of the finches to different environments

	2.1.2	Below is a picture of a Viceroy and a Monarch butterfly.
		Viceroy bufferfly (The mimic - palatable species)  Monarch bufferfly (The model - distasteful species)
		To birds, the Monarch butterfly looks like the Viceroy butterfly. The Monarch butterfly is distasteful to birds; however, the Viceroy butterfly is not. Once a bird tastes a Mondarch butterfly, it will not attempt to eat a Viceroy butterfly. How is this adaptation an advantage to the Viceroy butterfly?  a. This adaptation aids in the survival of the Viceroy butterfly. b. This adaptation attracts other Viceroy butterflies for mating. c. This adaptation helps the Viceroy butterfly find food. d. This adaptation aids in the growth of the Viceroy butterfly.
Bio.2.1.3 Explain various ways organisms interact with each other (including predation, competition, parasitism, mutualism) and with their environments resulting in stability within ecosystems.	2.1.3	Classify the relationship between flowering plants and bees, where the plant provides the bee with food and the bee spreads pollen for the plant.  a. commensalism  b. mutualism  c. parasitism  d. predation

	Bio.2.1.4 Explain why ecosystems can be relatively stable over hundreds or thousands of years, even though populations may fluctuate (emphasizing availability of food, availability of shelter, number of predators and disease).	2.1.4	Time  Identify major areas on the graph that represent population changes and discuss reasons these changes may have occurred.  Source: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
Bio.2.2 Understand the impact of human activities on the environment (one generation affects the next).	Bio.2.2.1 Infer how human activities (including population growth, pollution, global warming, burning of fossil fuels, habitat destruction and introduction of non-native species) may impact the environment.	2.2.1	Which of the following has contributed <i>most</i> to the overall warming of the earth's atmosphere?  a. the burning of fossil fuels b. the depletion of the ozone c. the occurrence of acid rain d. the melting of the polar ice caps
	Bio.2.2.2 Explain how the use, protection and conservation of natural resources by humans impact the environment from one generation to the next.	2.2.2	Constructed Response: What benefit does recycling provide for the biosphere?

	Evolution & C	Genetic	S									
<b>Essential Standards</b>	Clarifying Objectives		Assessment Examples									
Bio.3.1Explain how traits are determined by the structure and function of DNA.	Bio.3.1.1Explain the double-stranded, complementary nature of DNA as related to its function in the cell.	3.1.1 If a strand of DNA is CTGCAT, what is the sequence of nucleotides in the complementary strand?  a. GACGTA b. CTGCAT c. AGTACG d. GACGUA							of nucleotides			
	Bio.3.1.2 Explain how DNA and RNA code for proteins and determine traits.	3.1.2				nts amino RNA cod		s that a	re co	ded fr	om (	lifferent
						Codons	in mR	NA				
			First Base				econd Base				Third Base	
				Ū		С	A		G			A
			П	-	Phenylalanine Phenylalanine	UCU Serine UCC Serine	UAU UAC	Tyrosine Tyrosine	_	Cysteine Cysteine	U	1
			H	UUA	Leucine	UCA Serine	UAA	Stap	UGA	Stop	A	
				UUG	Leucine	UCG Serine	UAG	Stap	UGG T	ryptophan	G	7
				CUU	Leucine	CCU Proline	CAU	Histidine		Arginine	U	
			С	CUC	Leucine Leucine	CCC Proline	_	Histidine Glutamine		Arginine Arginine	C A	
				CUG	Leucine	CCG Proline	_			Arginine	G	
				AUU	lsaleucine	ACU Threenine				Serine	U	
			A	AUC	lsaleucine	ACC Threonine	-		AGC	Serine	С	
				AUA	lsaleucine	ACA Threonine		Lysine	_	Arginine	A	
			$\vdash$	AUG B	Osthionine or start Valine	ACG Threonine GCU Alamine		Lysine Aspartic Acid	-	Arginine Glycine	G U	
			G	GUC	Valine	GCC Alanine		Aspartic Acid	_	Glycine	С	
				GUA	Valine	GCA Alanine	-	Glutamic Acid	_	Glycine	A	
				GUG	Valine	GCG Alanine	GAG	Glutamic Acid	GGG	Glycine	G	
			c. Val d. Val Source:	rAG ne – line - line - line -	CGA?  — Isoleu  — Aspar  — <b>Isole</b> u  — Pheny	cine — Crtic Acid ucine — ylalanine	Slycii — A <b>Alar</b> — A	ne Manine <b>nine</b> Manine				IA sequence

	Bio.3.1.3 Explain how mutations in DNA that result from interactions with the environment (i.e. radiation and chemicals) or new combinations in existing genes lead to changes in function and phenotype.	3.1.3 Which of the following changes in DNA is likely to have the greatest effect on the resulting peptide? a. in a strand of DNA, one C is changed to a T b. a "G" is inserted at the beginning of a gene c. a "G" is inserted at the end of a gene d. in a strand of DNA, one T is changed to a C
Bio.3.2 Understand how the environment, and/or the interaction of alleles, influences the expression of genetic traits.	Bio.3.2.1Explain the role of meiosis in sexual reproduction and genetic variation.	3.2.1 Why is the process of meiosis important to sexual reproduction?  a. It provides genetic variation in offspring.  b. It doubles the number of chromosomes in offspring.  c. It reduces the number of alleles from parent to offspring.  d. It produces a hybrid of all genetic traits in offspring.
	Bio.3.2.2 Predict offspring ratios based on a variety of inheritance patterns (including: dominance, codominance, incomplete dominance, multiple alleles, and sex-linked traits).	3.2.1 A parent with Type A blood and a parent with Type O blood have a child. Which of the following is a possible genotype of their offspring?  a. I <sup>A</sup> I <sup>A</sup> b. I <sup>A</sup> I <sup>B</sup> c. I <sup>B</sup> i d. ii
	Bio.3.2.3 Explain how the environment can influence the expression of genetic traits.	<ul> <li>3.2.3 Why do identical twins become less alike as they grow older?</li> <li>a. Because the environment plays a role in influencing individuals</li> <li>b. Because the genetic makeup of the individuals changes</li> <li>c. Because the individuals' cells undergo mitosis</li> <li>d. Because the number of recessive alleles exceeds the number of dominant alleles</li> </ul>

Bio.3.3 Understand the	Bio.3.3.1Interpret how DNA is used for the comparison	
application of DNA	and identification of organisms.	DNA Fingarpripting Evpariment
application of DNA technology.	and identification of organisms.	3.3.1 The diagram shows DNA fingerprints from a daughter horse, the mother horse, and four possible fathers. Which horse is <i>most likely</i> the father?  a. Horse 1 b. Horse 2
		c. Horse 3 d. Horse 4 Source: Virginia Standards of Learning, Biology Exam 2008
	Bio.3.3.2 Summarize how transgenic organisms are engineered to benefit society.	3.3.2 How is the process of gene therapy used to treat cystic fibrosis?  a. by replacing the abnormal gene with a copy of the normal gene  b. by removing a portion of the abnormal gene c. by adding a nitrogen base to the beginning of the DNA sequence d. by inducing a mutation
	Bio.3.3.3 Evaluate some of the ethical issues surrounding the use of DNA technology (including: cloning, genetically modified organisms, stem cell research, and Human Genome Project).	3.3.3 <b>Constructed Response:</b> Should there be laws to regulate stem cell research? Justify your answer.
Bio.3.4 Explain the theory of evolution by natural selection as a mechanism for how species change over time.	Bio.3.4.1 Explain how fossil, biochemical, and anatomical evidence support the theory of evolution.	3.4.1 Species A and B share similarities in DNA sequences. What would this suggest about their evolutionary relationship?  a. Species A developed before species B.  b. Species A and B share a recent common ancestor.  c. Species A and B are unrelated.  d. Species B developed before Species A.

	Bio.3.4.2 Explain how natural selection influences the changes in species over time.	3.4.2	During the Industrial Revolution, there were two variations of English Peppered Moths, those with light color and those with dark color. The soot from the factories covered the trees. Data was collected to measure the percentage of each type of moth in the area. It was noted that the percentage of dark-colored moths increased over time, while the percentage of light-colored moths decreased. What is the likely explanation for this change?  a. The presence of a mutation changed the color of the English Peppered Moths.  b. The presence of the dark-colored variation increased the likelihood for survival of the English Peppered Moths.  c. The presence of the light-colored variation increased the likelihood for survival of the English Peppered Moths.  d. The presence of an acquired trait changed the color of the English Peppered Moths.
	Bio.3.4.3 Explain how various disease agents (bacteria, viruses, chemicals) can influence natural selection.	3.4.3	Constructed Response: Why are incidences of sickle cell anemia more common in areas known for high occurrence of malaria?  A researcher sprays a new pesticide on thousands of insects of the same species that live in a large field. A few of the insects survive. What can be concluded by the researcher?  a. The species of insects will likely become resistant to the pesticide.  b. The ideal interval between the first and second applications of the pesticide should be increased.  c. The pesticide has no effect on the species.  d. The concentration of the pesticide was too weak.
Bio.3.5 Analyze how classification systems are developed based upon speciation.	Bio.3.5.1 Explain the historical development and changing nature of classification systems.	3.5.1	Constructed Response: How did organisms like euglena, which are heterotrophic and autotrophic, change the classification system?

Bio.3.5.2 Analyze the classification of organisms according to their evolutionary relationships (including:	3.5.2	Using the key pro	vided, drawing III can be id	lentified as which bird?
dichotomous keys and phylogenetic trees).				
		I) 90cm	II) 69cm	III) 50cm
			<i>e</i>	
		IV) 31cm	V) 20cm	VI) 7.5cm
		1.a. Larger than 4	nic Key to North American 0. cm	2
			ked	
			eyes that look like ear hat look like ears	
			d color of feathersd color of feathers	
			Ar	

# a. Bubo virginianus b. Haliaeetus leucocephalus c. Corlinus virginianus d. Anas platyrhynchos Source: NC Department of Public Instruction, EOC Biology Sample Items Goal 4, 2004 Curriculum 3.5.3 Constructed Response: Based upon the dichotomous key above, which two organisms are more closely related? Explain your reasoning.

Molecular Biology		
<b>Essential Standards</b>	Clarifying Objectives	Assessment Examples
Bio.4.1 Understand how biological molecules are essential to the survival of living organisms.	Bio.4.1.1Compare the structures and functions of the major biological molecules (carbohydrates, proteins, lipids, and nucleic acids) as related to the survival of living organisms.	<ul> <li>4.1.1 Why would a distance runner consume carbohydrates instead of proteins before a race?</li> <li>a. Carbohydrates provide insulation for heat.</li> <li>b. Carbohydrates provide structure for tissues.</li> <li>c. Carbohydrates provide genetic material for muscle cells.</li> <li>d. Carbohydrates provide energy for endurance.</li> </ul>
	Bio.4.1.2 Summarize the relationship among DNA, proteins, and amino acids in carrying out the work of cells and how this is similar in all organisms.	<ul> <li>4.1.2 How does the DNA code become a protein?</li> <li>a. DNA →mRNA → tRNA →amino acid → protein</li> <li>a. DNA → tRNA → mRNA → amino acid → protein</li> <li>b. DNA → mRNA → amino acid → tRNA → protein</li> <li>c. DNA → amino acid → mRNA → tRNA → protein</li> </ul>
	Bio.4.1.3 Explain how enzymes act as catalysts for biological reactions.	<ul> <li>4.1.3 How do enzymes speed up biological chemical reactions?</li> <li>a. Enzymes increase the energy required for a reaction to occur.</li> <li>b. Enzymes decrease the energy required for a reaction to occur.</li> <li>c. Enzymes have no affect on the energy required for a reaction to occur.</li> <li>d. Enzymes maintain the energy needed for a reaction to occur.</li> </ul>
Bio 4.2 Analyze the relationships between biochemical processes and energy use.	Bio.4.2.1 Analyze photosynthesis and cellular respiration in terms of how energy is stored, released, and transferred within and between these systems.	<ul> <li>4.2.1 How does the process of photosynthesis in plants provide energy for animals?</li> <li>a. The water and carbon dioxide used in photosynthesis are converted into glucose and ATP for animals.</li> <li>b. The glucose and ATP used in photosynthesis are converted into water and carbon dioxide for animals.</li> <li>c. The glucose and carbon dioxide used in photosynthesis are converted into proteins for animals.</li> <li>d. The oxygen and glucose produced through photosynthesis are converted into lipids for animals.</li> </ul>
	Bio.4.2.2 Explain ways that organisms use released energy for maintaining homeostasis (active transport).	4.2.2 The concentration of a certain molecule is greater inside the cell than outside the cell. If the cell needs more of that molecule, what is the best process to move more of this molecule inside the cell?  a. Active transport b. Passive transport c. Diffusion d. Osmosis