

What Is *STAAR Review to Go: Science for Grade 4*?

STAAR Review to Go: Science for Grade 4 is a student-centered review resource that supports the Science TEKS taught in grade 4 and assessed on the grade 5 STAAR® exam. Laying a strong foundation in science beginning in kindergarten is critical for student success. Having students who enter fifth grade with a solid knowledge of science allows fifth-grade teachers to dig deeper into the content and allows students to better master it. The grade 5 STAAR exam is cumulative and assesses supporting TEKS from both third and fourth grades.

For grade 4, teachers can use these activities to review, reteach, or spiral back to previously taught concepts. For grade 5, teachers can use these activities for 1–2 days or for up to 2 weeks as review activities before the STAAR exam in science class. The activities can also be used as Saturday review sessions or during tutorials.

Each activity is TEKS based and may be used to enrich Tier I instruction or as a review at the rigor outlined by the TEKS. Each review activity is designed to take 15–30 minutes and fit in a file folder to create a convenient and engaging review resource.

Creating Review Activity Folders

Whether using the review activities in this book or creating your own, you will need the following materials:

- access to a copy machine and/or printer
- cardstock
- clear tape
- resealable plastic bags
- file folders, preferably a different color for each Reporting Category
- glue and/or glue sticks
- scissors

Create a set (or two, if needed) of Review Activity Folders and place them in stations for students to review over several class periods or make several folders for each activity and have the whole class work through each folder at the same time.

Follow these steps to create a Review Activity Folder:

1. Read through the Materials Lists, Advance Preparation, and Teacher Notes sections of the activity pages and gather the materials for the activity.
2. Print the Labels, Task Cards, and Student Answer Keys. You may choose to make copies from the book or access the digital files to print in color or black and white. Access digital files at <http://r4hub.esc4.net> using your login.
3. Cut out the Labels, Task Cards, and Student Answer Keys and attach each to the folder. You may choose to follow the sample layout or organize the folder in a way that meets the needs of your students.
4. Print copies of the student pages. These are designed to be takeaways for students to use as a study guide.

Using Review Activity Folders

The folder format provides flexible options for review. The following are examples of ways to use the folders:

- **Whole-Class Review:** During one class period, the class works through the same review activity folder(s) and debriefs them together.

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- **Review Stations:** Student groups work through each folder and note any topics on which they have confusion or need further review. The teacher should monitor to detect any misconceptions. These points for review can be addressed individually or as a class to make the best use of class time.
- **Individualized Review:** Students work through activities that target their areas of greatest need based on formative assessment data.

Answer Keys

Answer Keys are included with each activity. Answer Keys are embedded in the Teacher Notes and within the folder pages. They should be printed, cut out, and attached to the folder or Solution Station. The Answer Keys can be used in one of the following ways:

- Place the Answer Key on the back cover of the folder for students to self-check as they work through the activity.
- Place the Answer Key on the back cover of the folder under a flap secured by an adhesive fabric fastener dot for students to self-check as they work through the activity.
- Plan for students to visit a Solution Station with a labeled Answer Key for each activity.

Debriefing and Providing Feedback

Depending on how the folders are used, the teacher may choose a variety of strategies to provide feedback.

- Use Key Questions and practice assessment items to debrief the review activity. Students should be able to accurately answer these questions following the review.
- Students work through each review activity and use the Answer Key or visit the Solution Station to check their answers. Students should note when they have confusion about a concept so it can be addressed.
- Teachers may choose to be the Solution Station by holding the Answer Keys and discussing student understandings/misconceptions as they check their work.

Using Assessment Data to Create Your Own Review Activities

When planning review activities, assessment data should be used to determine which TEKS must be reviewed thoroughly and which TEKS need minimal review. State assessment data from grade 5 were used to determine the supporting TEKS addressed in *STAAR Review to Go: Science for Grade 4*. Current campus or district data may indicate a need to create review activities for TEKS not addressed in this product.

For a broader view of student assessment trends, use assessment data collected throughout the current year. Most districts have access to data analysis software that can provide performance data at the class, campus, or district level. Consider creating folders following the collection and analysis of data from class, campus, or district assessments so that a set of activities will be ready for use with students when it is time to begin reviewing.

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If data analysis software is not available, assessment data from the Texas Education Agency can be helpful in determining which supporting TEKS to target during STAAR review. Statewide item analysis data are available for STAAR assessments beginning in 2013. Supporting TEKS with the lowest percentage of correct answers and highest frequency of STAAR assessment questions should be the focus for review.

Once the TEKS targeted for review have been identified, evaluate available STAAR Released Test Questions to determine the types of questions that are challenging for students. Some types of questions that challenge students include those that

- require a calculation;
- require students to analyze charts, graphs, tables, or diagrams;
- require students to read and understand a large amount of text;
- do not provide a visual model to aid students; or
- require multiple steps to answer.

Consider the STAAR Released Test Questions when planning review activities. Ask, “Would this activity help my students master the targeted concept and answer this question successfully?”

References

Auer, V., & Hartill, M. (2014). *Vocabulary now!* San Clemente, CA: Canter Press.

Seidlitz, J., & Kenfield, K. (2011). *38 great academic language builders*. San Clemente, CA: Canter Press.