It's the Little Things That Matter

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Grade Level 9th – 12th Grade

Course Chemistry, Physical Science

What is in a phenomenon-driven three-dimensional (3D) instructional set? These science resources use phenomena to facilitate engaging and meaningful learning, instruction, and formative assessment. Each resource set contains a guiding document and three other types of documents: an Instructional Task (IT), a corresponding formative Assessment Task (AT), and a corresponding Pattern Analysis of Student Thinking (PAST). These resources are not intended to be a complete lesson plan. Three-dimensional learning is not limited to one specific type of lesson format and is compatible with most lesson plan models. The IT proposes two or more possible phenomena that could be used to drive an instructional sequence addressing a specific OAS-S standard. It also provides suggestions for engaging students with the phenomena through meaningful learning experiences in three dimensions. The AT focuses on a phenomenon-associated scenario. It contains one or more tasks designed to give students opportunities to show their thinking and provide evidence-based explanations about the disciplinary core ideas (DCIs) using crosscutting concepts and scientific practices for that standard. The PAST document is directly associated with the AT. It describes the intended purpose of each part of the AT and includes relevant student response themes to help teachers identify patterns of student thinking. It also provides guidance and insight into how to interpret student responses and possible instructional moves for facilitating student understanding of a specific DCI concept. Individual teachers can use the PAST as a tool to construct a rubric for the AT.

Performance Expectation (PE)

Communicate scientific and technical information about why the molecular-level structure of matter is important in the functioning of designed materials.

Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCI)

Attraction and repulsion between electric charges at the atomic scale explain the structure, properties, and transformations of matter, as well as the contact forces between material objects.

Resource Attachments

Phenomenon-Based Instructional Task

- Guide to Using a Phenomenon-Driven Three-Dimensional Instructional Set 3-6-19—It's The Little Things That Matter.pdf
- HS-PS2-6 IT—It's the Little Things that Matter.pdf

Formative Assessment Task

- HS-PS2-6 AT Molecular Structure and Function—It's The Little Things That Matter.pdf

Pattern Analysis of Student Thinking (PAST)

- HS-PS2-6 PAST Molecular Structure—It's The Little Things That Matter.pdf