



5th Grade Concept Connections

Who? In pairs or small groups of 3-4 students

How long? 25 minutes

What does each pair or group need? One of the following pages and a pen/pencil

What to do? This activity is designed to be completed by a group of 8-12 students with their assigned chaperone. Divide students into smaller groups of 2-3 students. Select one of the following pages to each group of students. Each page lists exhibits that closely relate to a concept in the 5th grade science standards. Encourage students to explore each of the three exhibits they select for 4 to 6 minutes each, recording what they notice and what they wonder about. After the smaller groups explore the exhibits, gather together. Have each smaller group report out what they explored and describe what they determine is the relationship between each of the three exhibits.

Discussion stems for chaperone/facilitator:

- What did you try? What did you notice?
- How are the ideas from the three exhibits connected?
- How is this concept applied or used in your life?
- What is a question that you could not answer or a new question that you would like to try at one of these three exhibits?

Teacher background:

The concepts on the following pages are grouped to correspond to 5th grade science standards related to Physical Properties of Matter, Earth's Resources, Light and Shadows, and Gravity. For concepts that students have already experienced in class, invite them to consider

- How does this experience build on your previous experience in class with this concept?
- What is something new or different that you learned about this concept?

For concepts that students have yet to encounter in class this year, invite them to consider how they might investigate one or two of their questions. Then return to the investigation during class when the concept is encountered in class material.



5th Grade Concept Connections

Select three exhibits from the list below and explore each with your small group. Come up with ideas about what is going on in the exhibits by making observations and using those observations to support your ideas. Identify connections between the three exhibits

Watch Water Freeze
Geysers & Eruption

Heat Currents
No Air, No Sound

Heat Camera
Seat Sensor

Icy Bodies (2nd floor)

Exhibit	What do you notice?	What do you wonder?

Describe what these three exhibits have in common:



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Toasty Compost
Blowing Seeds

Groundwater
Life Under Our Feet

Prairies Alive

Exhibit	What do you notice?	What do you wonder?

Describe what these three exhibits have in common:



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Visit the three exhibits listed below and explore each with your small group. Come up with ideas about what is going on in the exhibits by making observations and using those observations to support your ideas. Identify connections between the three exhibits

Exhibit	What do you notice?	What do you wonder?
A Cast of Shadows		
Light Shapes		
Colored Shadows		

Describe what these three exhibits have in common:



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Select three exhibits from the list and explore each with your small group. Come up with ideas about what is going on in the exhibits by making observations and using those observations to support your ideas. Identify connections between the three exhibits

Build an Arch
Water Drop Photography

Chain Reaction
The Big Swing

Exhibit	What do you notice?	What do you wonder?

Describe what these three exhibits have in common: