

Maryland Grade 3 to Grade 4 Physical Science Summer Bridge

Physical Science: Review and Readiness

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Welcome to Physical Science Summer Bridge

A summer path from Grade 3 physical science review into Grade 4 energy readiness.

This book begins with the force and motion ideas students learned in Grade 3, then gently introduces the Grade 4 energy ideas they will see next. The early weeks protect what students already know. The later weeks preview speed, energy transfer, collisions, and simple energy-device design with clear pictures and short practice.

Keep strong

- pushes, pulls, and motion changes
- balanced and unbalanced forces
- evidence from fair investigations
- motion patterns and predictions
- magnets and electric forces at a distance

Get ready

- faster objects can have more energy
- sound, light, heat, and electricity can move energy
- collisions can transfer energy
- engineers design devices that change energy
- tests help improve a design

How the Grade 3 to Grade 4 path works

Weeks 1–5 are mostly Grade 3 review. Weeks 6–8 preview Grade 4 physical science in a gentle way. Students do not need to master every Grade 4 idea now; they only need enough background to feel familiar with the new words and examples.

How to Use Physical Science Summer Bridge

3 → 4



Use the page order as the readiness plan.

This book is not just a repeat of Grade 3. It starts with review so students feel steady, then introduces a few Grade 4 physical science ideas before school begins. Move one page at a time and let the new ideas feel familiar before expecting perfect answers.

- Review weeks** Use the early weeks to check forces, motion, magnets, patterns, evidence, and design problems from Grade 3.
- Readiness weeks** In later weeks, notice new Grade 4 words: energy, speed, transfer, collision, and device.
- Friday quiz** Treat the quiz as a checkup. It shows what is remembered and what should be reread before moving on.
- After checking** For missed answers, ask whether the question used a Grade 3 review idea or a Grade 4 preview idea.

Anchor

Start with the science idea students already know from Grade 3.

Connect

Link that idea to a new Grade 4 word, picture, or example.

Check

Use the answer explanation to see which clue mattered most.

For students

- Say whether the page is review or readiness.
- Use the picture before reading the choices.
- Keep short answers simple and science-based.
- Mark new Grade 4 words to revisit later.

For adults

- Do not overteach the preview weeks.
- Ask how the new idea connects to Grade 3 science.
- Use missed answers to name one idea to reread.
- Keep the tone exploratory, not test-like.



My Science Bridge Progress

Check off each lesson and write the Friday quiz score as you move toward Grade 4.

5 review weeks

3 readiness weeks

8 Friday quizzes

This bridge book belongs to:

| Week | Focus | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Friday Quiz |
|------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Balanced and unbalanced forces | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> / 10 |
| 2 | Force evidence and motion patterns | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> / 10 |
| 3 | Motion predictions and magnets | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> / 10 |
| 4 | Electric forces and magnet design | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> / 10 |
| 5 | Magnet problems and force review | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> / 10 |
| 6 | Grade 4 preview: speed and energy | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> / 10 |
| 7 | Energy transfer and collisions | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> / 10 |
| 8 | Energy-device design practice | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> / 10 |

Reflection Notes

A Grade 3 idea that feels strong: _____

A Grade 4 preview idea to revisit: _____



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Here's what we'll explore together!

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Let's learn and have fun!



WEEK

1

Balanced and Unbalanced Forces

Practice this week's science ideas.

This Week's Days

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Day 1</i> | <i>Pushes and Pulls</i> |
| <i>Day 2</i> | <i>Balanced Forces</i> |
| <i>Day 3</i> | <i>Unbalanced Forces</i> |
| <i>Day 4</i> | <i>Planning a Fair Force Test</i> |
| <i>Day 5</i> | <i>Week 1 Quiz</i> |

Week 1 Day 1 *Pushes and Pulls*

Big idea: Important ideas include force as a push or a pull that can make an object start moving, stop moving, speed up, slow down, or change direction.

- **What to notice:** Every force has a strength (strong or gentle) and a direction (shown with an arrow).
- **Important examples:** Include gravity only as a force that pulls objects down.
- **Science thinking:** Use everyday examples: opening doors, kicking balls, pulling wagons, sliding books.
- **Use evidence:** You identify the force, its direction, and what it does to motion in pictured situations, then draw your first force arrows.
- **Common mistake:** Keep everything qualitative; no formulas or units.
- **Grade 3 check:** Key words for this lesson: force, push, pull, motion, balanced.

Check yourself: A strong answer names the science idea and uses evidence, data, a model, or a clear example.



Pushes and Pulls: study the picture, model, or data before answering.



Practice

Bridge Practice

- 1 What is the main idea of Pushes and Pulls? _____
- 2 Name two important details from today's review. _____
- 3 Which key word helps you talk about this lesson? _____
- 4 What evidence or model could help support an answer about Pushes and Pulls? _____
- 5 Why does this lesson belong in the chapter Balanced and Unbalanced Forces? _____
- 6 A classmate gives an answer with no evidence. What should they add? _____



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Answer Key & Explanations

Check the answer first, then read the explanation to see the evidence or reasoning.

Week 1 Day 1: Pushes and Pulls

Answers

- 1 Important ideas include force as a push or a pull that can make an object start moving, stop moving, speed up, slow down, or change direction.
- 2 Accept two accurate review details, such as one fact about force and one example, model, or evidence source from the lesson.
- 3 force
- 4 Use a picture, table, graph, model, observation, or source fact from the lesson.
- 5 It helps explain Balanced and Unbalanced Forces.
- 6 a fact, observation, data point, or model from the lesson.

Explanations

- 1 Start with the lesson's core idea. The review explains that Important ideas include force as a push or a pull that can make an object start moving, stop moving, speed up, slow down, or change direction.
- 2 Good details come straight from the review bullets, not from a guess. Use two facts that help explain the lesson idea.
- 3 The word force names one of the important science ideas in this lesson. Use it when you explain your answer.
- 4 Evidence can be an observation, a table, a graph, a model, or a source fact. It must connect directly to the claim.
- 5 The topic is one part of the larger chapter idea, Balanced and Unbalanced Forces. Connecting the day to the chapter helps you see the pattern across lessons.
- 6 Science answers are stronger when they name the evidence. The evidence shows why the claim should be trusted.

Week 1 Day 2: Balanced Forces

Answers

- 1 Two forces of equal strength pushing or pulling in opposite directions are balanced: they cancel each other, so the object's motion does not change.



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2 Accept two accurate review details, such as one fact about force and one example, model, or evidence source from the lesson.

3 force

4 Use a picture, table, graph, model, observation, or source fact from the lesson.

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6 Science answers are stronger when they name the evidence. The evidence shows why the claim should be trusted.

Week 1 Day 3: Unbalanced Forces

Answers

1 Forces that do not cancel are unbalanced, and unbalanced forces change motion: the object starts, stops, speeds up, slows down, or turns toward the stronger force.

2 Accept two accurate review details, such as one fact about force and one example, model, or evidence source from the lesson.

3 force

4 Use a picture, table, graph, model, observation, or source fact from the lesson.

5 It helps explain Balanced and Unbalanced Forces.

6 a fact, observation, data point, or model from the lesson.

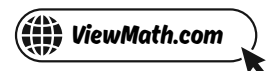
Explanations



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Week 1 Day 4: Planning a Fair Force Test

Answers

- 1 How scientists plan an investigation before doing it: a question, a prediction, what to change, what to keep the same, and what to observe.
- 2 Accept two accurate review details, such as one fact about force and one example, model, or evidence source from the lesson.
- 3 force
- 4 Use a picture, table, graph, model, observation, or source fact from the lesson.
- 5 It helps explain Balanced and Unbalanced Forces.
- 6 a fact, observation, data point, or model from the lesson.

Explanations

- 1 Start with the lesson's core idea. The review explains that How scientists plan an investigation before doing it: a question, a prediction, what to change, what to keep the same, and what to observe.
- 2 Good details come straight from the review bullets, not from a guess. Use two facts that help explain the lesson idea.
- 3 The word force names one of the important science ideas in this lesson. Use it when you explain your answer.



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