



Sneak Peek at 2026-27 Topics Calendar

2025-26 Topics Calendar

**Editors may change content as needed.*

Fall 2026

ISSUE	FEATURE ARTICLE	CONTENT AREA	NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS
September	  The Monarch Mystery: Researchers are investigating how monarchs use magnetism to migrate long distances.	Biology, Physics	LS1.D Information Processing; PS2.B: Types of Interactions
	  The World's Quietest Room: What's it like in a room that absorbs 99.999% of sound waves?	Physics, Engineering	PS4.A: Wave Properties; ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution
October	  A Mammoth Graveyard: What might a trove of fossils reveal about the relationship between humans and mammoths?	Earth Science, Biology	ESS1.C: The History of Planet Earth; LS4.A: Evidence of Common Ancestry
	  Glowing Bats: Scientists have learned that bats in the U.S. glow green.	Biology, Physics, Chemistry	LS4.C: Adaptation; PS4.B: Electromagnetic Radiation

Fall 2026

ISSUE	FEATURE ARTICLE	CONTENT AREA	NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS
November	 Name That Element! Given five clues, can you name the mystery element?	Chemistry	PS1.A: Structure and Properties of Matter; PS1.B: Chemical Reactions
	 Flying to Safety: Veteran pilots fly into natural disaster sites to save people's pets.	Biology, Earth Science	ETS2.B: STEM and Society
December/ January	 The Fight for Dark Skies: As light pollution worsens, this community is fighting to preserve the night sky.	Earth Science	ESS3.C: Human Impacts on Earth Systems; ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions
	 I Have Tourette Syndrome: A teen shares what it's like to live with this condition.	Biology	LS1.A: Structure and Function; ETS2.B: STEM and Society

August 2025

FEATURE ARTICLE	CONTENT AREA	NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS
Kids Make a BIG Microscopic Discovery	Biology; Changemakers	LS1.A: Structure and Function; LS4.C: Adaptation
Building an Underwater Lab	Earth Science; Engineering	ESS2.C: The Roles of Water in Earth's Surface Processes; ETS1.A: Defining Engineering Problems
Pimple Patches Explained!	Chemistry; Biology	PS1.A: Structure and Properties of Matter; LS1.A: Structure and Function
Science of Cymbals	Physics; Engineering	PS4.A: Wave Properties; ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution

September 2025

FEATURE ARTICLE	CONTENT AREA	NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS
All About the Moon	Earth & Space Science	ESS1.A: The Universe and Its Stars; ESS1.B: Earth and the Solar System
Science of Basketball!	Physical Science	PS2.A: Forces and Motion; PS3.A: Definitions of Energy
Baby Parrot Rescue	Biology	LS1.B: Growth and Development; LS4.D: Biodiversity and Humans
The End of the Penny?	Data Analysis; Chemistry	PS1.A: Structure and Properties of Matter; ETS2.B: STEM and Society

October 2025

FEATURE ARTICLE	CONTENT AREA	NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS
Spirits in the Stacks?	Physics	PS4.A: Wave Properties; PS2.B: Types of Interactions; PS4.B: Electromagnetic Radiation
The Dark Universe	Space Science; Data Analysis	ESS1.A: The Universe and Its Stars; ESS1.B: Earth and the Solar System
Investigate It: Vampire Bats	Biology	LS1.A: Structure and Function; LS1.C: Energy Flow
Name That Element!	Chemistry	PS1.A: Structure and Properties of Matter; ETS2.B: STEM and Society

November 2025

FEATURE ARTICLE	CURRICULUM TOPIC	NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS
Is Brain Rot Real?	Biology; Engineering	LS1.D: Information Processing; LS1.A: Structure and Function; ETS1.A: Defining Engineering Problems
Solar Storms Cause Cosmic Chaos	Earth & Space Science; Physical Science	ESS1.B: Earth and the Solar System; PS4.B: Electromagnetic Radiation
Teens Set Baby Fish Free	Biology	LS1.A: Structure and Function; LS4.D: Biodiversity and Humans
Cool STEM Jobs: Scientific Glassblower	Chemistry	PS1.A: Structure and Properties of Matter; PS3.A: Definitions of Energy

December 2025

FEATURE ARTICLE	CONTENT AREA	NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS
Real-Life Creatures That Inspired SpongeBob	Life Science; Earth Science	LS4.C: Adaptation; ESS2.C: The Roles of Water in Earth's Surface Processes
Holiday-Light Extravaganza!	Physical Science; Engineering	PS4.B: Electromagnetic Radiation; PS3.B: Energy Transfer; ETS1.A: Defining Engineering Problems
Science Illustrated: The Serum Run to Save Lives	Biology; Engineering	LS1.A: Structure and Function; ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions
Marshmallow Science	Chemistry	PS1.A: Structure and Properties of Matter; ESS3.A: Natural Resources

January 2026

FEATURE ARTICLE	CONTENT AREA	NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS
Can Compounds in Polar Bear Fur Replace PFAS?	Life Science; Chemistry	LS1.A: Structure and Function; PS1.A: Structure and Properties of Matter
Do the Winter Olympics Need Snow on Demand?	Earth Science; Engineering	ESS2.D: Weather and Climate; ESS3.D: Global Climate Change; ETS1.A: Defining Engineering Problems
Schools for Safer Skies	Physics; Engineering	PS2.A: Forces and Motion; ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions
Name That Element!	Chemistry	PS1.A: Structure and Properties of Matter

February 2026

FEATURE ARTICLE	CONTENT AREA	NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS
Animal Robots Reporting for Duty	Engineering; Biology	ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions; ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution; LS4.D: Biodiversity and Humans
The True Cost of Valentine's Day Flowers	Earth Science; Chemistry	ESS3.A: Natural Resources; ESS3.D: Global Climate Change; PS1.A: Structure and Properties of Matter; PS1.B: Chemical Reactions
Dive Into Dungeons and Dragons!	Engineering; Data Analysis	ETS2.B: Influence of Science, Technology, and Engineering on Society; ETS1.A: Defining Engineering Problems
Endangered Tigers in Love	Biology; Earth Science	LS2.C: Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience; ESS3.C: Human Impacts on Earth Systems

March 2026

FEATURE ARTICLE	CONTENT AREA	NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS
Are Humans Causing Hummingbird Evolution?	Biology	LS4.B: Natural Selection; LS4.C: Adaptation
Easter Island's Vanishing Statues	Chemistry	PS1.A: Structure and Properties of Matter; PS1.B: Chemical Reactions
Science Illustrated: How Marie Tharp's Discoveries Changed Science Forever	Earth Science	ESS1.C: The History of Planet Earth; ESS2.B: Plate Tectonics and Large-Scale System Interactions
Putting Egg-Drop Science to the Test	Physics	PS2.A: Forces and Motion; PS3.C: Relationship Between Energy and Forces

April 2026

FEATURE ARTICLE	CONTENT AREA	NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS
Life After Chernobyl	Life Science; Chemistry	LS3.B: Variation of Traits; LS2.C: Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience; PS1.C: Nuclear Processes
Renewable Energy Stats	Physics	PS3.A: Definitions of Energy; PS3.D: Energy in Everyday Life
Inside the Vera Rubin Observatory	Earth Science	ESS1.A: The Universe and Its Stars; ESS1.B: Earth and the Solar System; ETS2.A: Interdependence of STEM
Teen Changemaker: A Gardener Grows a Business	Life Science	LS1.C: Organization for Matter and Energy Flow in Organisms

May 2026

FEATURE ARTICLE	CONTENT AREA	NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS
The Sweet Story of Freeze-Dried Candy	Engineering; Chemistry	ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions; PS1.A: Structure and Properties of Matter
Green Sea Turtles Come Back From the Brink	Life Science	LS4.D: Biodiversity and Humans; LS2.C: Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience
The Fight over Artificial Turf	Physical Science; Engineering	PS4.B: Electromagnetic Radiation; PS3.A: Definitions of Energy; ETS1.A: Defining Engineering Problems
Spider in Space!	Earth & Space Science; Life Science	ESS1.B: Earth and the Solar System; LS1.D: Information Processing