



Grades 9–12

3.3.9-12.A Earth and Space Science: Space Systems

Students who demonstrate understanding can *develop a model based on evidence to illustrate the life span of the sun and the role of nuclear fusion in the sun's core to release energy in the form of radiation.*

Clarifying Statement: Emphasis is on the energy transfer mechanisms that allow energy from nuclear fusion in the sun's core to reach Earth. Examples of evidence for the model include observations of the masses and lifetimes of other stars, as well as the ways that the sun's radiation varies due to sudden solar flares ("space weather"), the 11-year sunspot cycle, and non-cyclic variations over centuries.

Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include details of the atomic and sub-atomic processes involved with the sun's nuclear fusion.

Science and Engineering Practices (SEP)	Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCI)	Crosscutting Concepts (CCC)
Developing and Using Models Modeling in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to using, synthesizing, and developing models to predict and show relationships among variables between systems and their components in the natural and designed world(s). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a model based on evidence to illustrate the relationships between systems or between components of a system. 	The Universe and Its Stars <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The star called the sun is changing and will burn out over a lifespan of approximately 10 billion years. Energy in Chemical Processes and Everyday Life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nuclear Fusion processes in the center of the sun release the energy that ultimately reaches Earth as radiation. 	Scale Proportion and Quantity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The significance of a phenomenon is dependent on the scale, proportion, and quantity at which it occurs.

Pennsylvania Context: N/A

PA Career Ready Skills: Advocate for oneself in education, employment, and within the community.

Connections to Other Standards Content and Practices

Standard Source	Possible Connections to Other Standard(s) or Practice(s)
Agriculture (AFNR)	CS.06.01.01.a: Research and explain the foundational cycles in AFNR (e.g., water cycle, nutrient cycle, carbon cycle, etc.).
Science, Environmental Literacy and Sustainability (NAAEE)	9-12 Strand 1.F. Working with models and simulations: Learners create, use, test, and evaluate models to analyze environmental questions, problems, issues, or phenomena.
PA Core Standards: ELA	CC.3.5.9-12.A: Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts, attending to the precise details of explanations or descriptions. CC.3.5.11-12.A: Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts, attending to important distinctions the author makes and to any gaps or inconsistencies in the account.



Standard Source	Possible Connections to Other Standard(s) or Practice(s)
PA Core Standards and Practices: Math	MP.2: Reason abstractly and quantitatively. MP.4: Model with mathematics. CC.2.1.HS.F.3: Apply quantitative reasoning to choose and interpret units and scales in formulas, graphs, and data display. CC.2.1.HS.F.4: Use units as a way to understand problems and to guide the solution of multistep problems. CC.2.2.HS.D.1: Interpret the structure of expressions to represent a quantity in terms of its context.
PA Standards: Social Studies	N/A
Educational Technology (ISTE)	1.6. Creative Communicator: Students communicate clearly and express themselves creatively for a variety of purposes using the platforms, tools, styles, formats and digital media appropriate to their goals.
Technology and Engineering (ITEEA)	STEL-10: Assess how similarities and differences among scientific, mathematical, engineering, and technological knowledge and skills contributed to the design of a product or system.