



Grades 9–12

3.2.9-12.H Physical Science: Structure and Properties of Matter

Students who demonstrate understanding can *develop models to illustrate the changes in the composition of the nucleus of the atom and the energy released during the processes of fission, fusion, and radioactive decay.*

Clarifying Statement: Emphasis is on simple qualitative models, such as pictures or diagrams, and on the scale of energy released in nuclear processes relative to other kinds of transformations.

Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include quantitative calculation of energy released. Assessment is limited to alpha, beta, and gamma radioactive decays.

Science and Engineering Practices (SEP)	Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCI)	Crosscutting Concepts (CCC)
Developing and Using Models Modeling in 9–12 builds on K–8 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 worlds. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a model based on evidence to illustrate the relationships between systems or between components of a system. 	Nuclear Processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nuclear processes, including fusion, fission, and radioactive decays of unstable nuclei, involve release or absorption of energy. The total number of neutrons plus protons does not change in any nuclear process. 	Energy and Matter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In nuclear processes, atoms are not conserved, but the total number of protons plus neutrons is conserved.

Pennsylvania Context: Examples of Pennsylvania context include but are not limited to Pennsylvania's nuclear power plants.

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 (NAEE)	9-12 Strand 2.1.A. Earth's physical systems: Learners describe the major processes and systems that form Earth and relate these processes, especially those that are large-scale and long-term to characteristics of Earth. They explain how changes in one system (hydrosphere, atmosphere, geosphere, and biosphere) result in changes to another. They describe how human sustainability depends on Earth systems.



Standard Source	Possible Connections to Other Standard(s) or Practice(s)
PA Core Standards: ELA	CC.3.5.9-10.G: Translate quantitative or technical information expressed in words in a text into visual form (e.g., a table or chart) and translate information expressed visually or mathematically (e.g., in an equation) into words. CC.3.5.11-12.G: Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., quantitative data, video, multimedia) in order to address a question or solve a problem.
PA Core Standards and Practices: Math	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 displays. CC.2.1.HS.F.4: Use units as a way to understand problems and to guide the solution of multistep problems.
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.