Sequential Rational

In Science there are many avenues in which one can teacher the objectives. I prefer teaching concepts from a grander scheme to more intimate…. There are six main areas of focus in the fifth grade curriculum. It is my intent to allow students the opportunity to intertwine skills from Scientific Ways of Knowing, Scientific Inquiry, and Science and Technology in with Earth / Space, Life Science, and Nature of Energy. Students will begin the year with my subunit on Earth / Space. It is my thought to present information related to space and Earth first to show students the vastness of space and then begin to hone into Earth and how important it truly is to be responsible with it and the resources it provides for our survival.

Earth and Space is an excellent unit to jump start learning because so many students have a fascination with space. Most students at one time or another wanted to be that astronaut exploring where few have gone before. Students will investigate what is meant by the term universe, galaxies, types of galaxies, our galaxy, characteristics of our solar system, investigating the different planets found in our solar system as well as their satellites, and specifics information about Earth and how it is different from all the other planets in our solar system. Students complete our unit on Earth and Space by creating pamphlet on a specific planet in our solar system. This project will incorporate factual information on the planet as well as using facts to write some nonfiction too.

The second subunit, I would focus on is the Nature of Energy. In this unit, different forms of energy will be investigated. These include light, sound, thermal, and electricity. The first to be discussed is energy by definition and how it can come in different forms. Thermal energy will be introduced next. Students will look at different ways thermal energy can be produced and transferred. This would include conduction, convention, and radiation. Students complete several labs to gain a better understanding and ways to differentiate between different modes of thermal energy and how it can be transferred to be utilized. Students will then investigate sound and light using several supplemental materials and many hands-on labs. Students will identify similarities between light and sound. These would include: traveling in waves, reflection, absorption, and refractions.

The third subunit is Life Science. It is in this realm students can really get to know the world they live in. This would include looking at renewable and nonrenewable resources and how we can make better use of them. Students will be able t identify renewable a / nonrenewable resources, where they can be found and how we can utilze them better to meet our needs and conserving what the Earth has to offer. Student again will gain further understanding through class discussions, various readings, and through hands-on activities.