1) A Topic such as “Energy,” Engineering Design,” or in this standard “Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity” is at the top of the standard. Keeping with the K–12 approach, topics repeat across grade levels.

2) Performance Expectations, also called PEs describe the way that students show mastery of the standard. These are revolutionary in that rather than simply state what a student “will know,” PEs ask students to demonstrate their mastery by doing things, like creating models, analyzing data, making and defending arguments and proposing and testing engineering solutions.

3) The first dimension, in blue, is the Science and Engineering Practices, or SEPs. This dimension focuses on how students should be learning and working and what skills they are practicing throughout their science instruction. These SEPs are the equivalent of the Math Practices associated with Common Core. However, the SEPs are woven together with content standards and others to support specific PEs.

4) Disciplinary Core Ideas, in salmon, Disciplinary core ideas have the power to focus K–12 science curriculum, instruction, and assessments on the most important aspects of science. Disciplinary ideas are grouped in four domains: the physical sciences; the life sciences; the earth and space sciences; and engineering, technology and applications of science.

5) The third dimension, in green, is Cross–Cutting Concepts. These connect key science concepts that students revisit from Kindergarten to Grade 12. They provide the science that ties together the DCIs and content across science disciplines like physical and life science as well as grade levels.

6) The bottom of each standard is where the interconnectedness of the standards is shown. In these connection boxes, connections between the DCI of this standard are shown between other DCIs at the same grade level as well as prior and future grade levels.

7) Last in these connection boxes are correlations made to Common Core standards for Math as well as English Language Arts and Literacy. In some cases, these Common Core standards are directly connected to the science standard, but in others they are listed as prerequisites for successful achievement of the standard’s Performance Expectations.