

Diocese of Allentown Science Curriculum  
Grade 4 Scope and Sequence

Learning Standard	Ideas for Developing Investigations and Learning Experiences	Date Completed
<b>Enduring Knowledge 1: Use the scientific method, scientific tools, and safe lab procedures to solve problems.</b>		
<p><b>Standards:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make purposeful observations using the appropriate senses.</li> <li>• Generate questions based on observations.</li> <li>• Identify strategies for gathering information (expert in field, books, observations, investigations, videos)</li> <li>• Conduct simple investigations.</li> <li>• Construct simple charts from data and observations.</li> <li>• Share ideas through purposeful conversation.</li> <li>• Communicate and present findings of observations (illustrations, models, writing).</li> <li>• Manipulate simple tools that aid in observation and data collection.</li> <li>• Make accurate measurements with appropriate units for the measurement tool.</li> </ul> <p><b>A. The Scientific Method is the way that scientists learn and study the world around them. The steps include:</b></p>	<p><b>ACTIVITY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a science handbook including Scientific Method &amp; Scientific Process Skills</li> <li>• Observe objects using the appropriate senses</li> <li>• Classify items</li> <li>• Make a chart with data</li> <li>• Have students and parents sign a Lab Safety Contract</li> <li>• Include lab safety rules in science handbook</li> <li>• Include scientific instruments and tools, and their uses, in science handbook</li> </ul> <p><b>LAB:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first lab should be a step by step practice using the Scientific Method of something they know (brushing teeth)</li> <li>• All labs should utilize the Scientific Method and Scientific Process Skills</li> <li>• Review safety rules at the beginning of every lab</li> <li>• Review instrument and tool name and use during every lab</li> </ul> <p><b>INTERNET/SMART BOARD:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Video clips</li> </ul> <p><b>VOCABULARY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hypothesis: an educated guess</li> <li>• Procedure: the steps in an experiment</li> <li>• Experiment: a fair test designed to answer a question</li> <li>• Observations: noting and recording information</li> <li>• Conclusion: the result of outcome</li> </ul>	

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<p>1. <b>Observe and ask a question</b></p> <p>2. <b>Form a hypothesis</b></p> <p>3. <b>Identify the procedure (materials and steps)</b></p> <p>4. <b>Follow the procedure to conduct the experiment</b></p> <p>5. <b>Tell what was learned from the experiment (conclusion)</b></p> <p><b>B. Scientists use Scientific Process Skills to solve problems.</b></p> <p>1. <b>Observing</b></p> <p>2. <b>Classifying</b></p> <p>3. <b>Measuring</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Length (inches, centimeters)</b></li><li>• <b>Mass (ounces, grams)</b></li></ul> <p>4. <b>Communication</b></p> <p>5. <b>Interdisciplinary Skills</b></p> <p><b>C. Lab Safety is a set of rules that scientists practice to safely learn and study the world around them. These rules include:</b></p> <p>1. <b>I will follow directions</b></p> <p>2. <b>I will listen carefully</b></p> <p>3. <b>I will keep myself and others safe</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Observing:</b> ability to identify properties, structures, etc. through use of all senses</li><li>• <b>Classifying:</b> ability to group, match, compare by commonality</li><li>• <b>Measuring:</b> ability to find quantitative differences, to estimate, to calculate, etc. (standard &amp; metric)</li><li>• <b>Communication:</b> ability to verbally relate experiences, information and procedures with clarity</li><li>• <b>Wafting:</b> waving a hand over a substance to draw a scent toward the nose</li><li>• <b>Scientist:</b> a person who asks questions and tries different ways to answer them</li></ul>	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>4. I will clean my area after lab activities</li><li>5. I am a responsible scientist</li><li>6. Do not enter Science Lab without an adult</li><li>7. Do not eat or drink in the lab</li><li>8. Do not inhale; wafting permitted with teacher approval</li></ul> <p><b>D. Scientific Instruments and Tools help scientists observe, describe and record the world around them. Instruments and tools include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Ruler</li><li>2. Pencil</li><li>3. Balance</li><li>4. Magnifying Lens</li><li>5. Safety Goggles</li><li>6. Flashlight</li><li>7. Globe</li></ul>		
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<p><b>Enduring Knowledge 2: <i>The solar system consists of planets and other bodies that orbit the Sun in predictable paths.</i></b></p>		
<p><b>A. Recognize that the sun is a star at the center of our solar system.</b></p> <p><b>B. Understand planetary movements are dynamic; orbiting in paths</b></p> <p><b>C. Identify names and characteristics of each of the planets in our solar system</b></p>	<p><b>ACTIVITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compare similarities and differences between the sun and stars.</li> <li>• Identify similar star patterns or groups from night photographs of the same location at different times of the year.</li> <li>• Formulate a general description of the daily motion of the Sun across the sky based on shadow observations. Explain how shadows could be used to tell the time of day.</li> <li>• Demonstrate through modeling that motion is a change in position over a period of time.</li> <li>• Creating a model of the planets and their correct order from the sun.</li> <li>• Use scales to emphasize size dynamics</li> </ul> <p><b>VOCABULARY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solar System-the Sun and all the objects that orbit around it.</li> <li>• Planet- large sphere in space that orbits a star.</li> <li>• Gravity– a force of attraction, or pull, between all objects.</li> <li>• Telescope- a device that collects light and makes distant objects appear closer and larger.</li> <li>• Comet- a chunk of ice, rock, and dust that orbits the Sun.</li> <li>• Asteroid- A chunk of rock or metal that orbits the Sun.</li> <li>• Meteor- a piece of rock, ice or metal that burns up in Earth’s atmosphere, causing a streak of light to appear in the sky.</li> <li>• Meteorite- a meteor that hits Earth’s surface.</li> <li>• Star- a hot sphere of gases in space that makes its own light.</li> </ul>	

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<b>Enduring Knowledge 3: <i>The Earth has motional cycles as does Earth's moon.</i></b>		
<p>A. <b>Distinguish between rotation and revolution</b></p> <p>B. <b>Understand the seasons</b></p> <p>C. <b>Understand basis of moon phases</b></p>	<p><b>ACTIVITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drawing or building and then explaining a model of the earth rotating on its axis in relation to the sun and moon (i.e., day and night).</li> <li>• Connect these seasonal changes in sunlight to the tilt of Earth's axis with respect to the plane of its orbit around the Sun.</li> <li>• Have students chart a lunar month and demonstrate their understanding of terms and phases.</li> </ul> <p><b>VOCABULARY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Axis- a real or imaginary line that a spinning object turns around.</li> <li>• Orbit- the path an object takes as it travels around another object.</li> <li>• Rotation- the act of spinning around an axis.</li> <li>• Revolution- one complete trip around an object in a circular or nearly circular path.</li> <li>• Phase- a temporary state of being, often used to describe the change in the appearance of the Moon.</li> <li>• Lunar Eclipse- a blocking of the moon's light when the moon passes into Earth's shadow; happens when the Earth is directly between the Sun and the Moon.</li> <li>• Solar Eclipse-a blocking of the Sun's light that happens when Earth passes through the Moon's shadow; at that time the Moon is between Earth and the Sun.</li> <li>• Crater- a hollow area or pit in the ground.</li> </ul>	

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<b>Enduring Knowledge 4: <i>The Earth is old and scientists learn about the past history of living things by studying fossils.</i></b>		
<p><b>A. Explore Earth theories regarding origin and age</b></p> <p><b>B. Identify the crust, mantle and core.</b></p> <p><b>C. Define a fossil and understand conditions for fossil formation.</b></p>	<p><b>ACTIVITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Compare several theories relating to the origin of the Planet Earth</li><li>• Discuss the composition and state of matter of each layer. Model the interactions between the layers of Earth.</li><li>• Examine Fossils or imprints and use data gathered from observations to argue the origin (terrestrial or marine).</li></ul> <p><b>VOCABULARY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Crust-rock that makes up the Moon's and Earth's outermost layers.</li><li>• Mantle- the layer of rock below the Earth's crust.</li><li>• Core- the innermost layer of the Earth made of iron and nickel.</li><li>• Fossil-any evidence of an organism that lived in the past.</li></ul>	

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<b>Enduring Knowledge 5: <i>Features, processes, and changes occur in Earth's land and oceans.</i></b>		
<p><b>A. Introduce the theory of Pangaea and Plate Tectonics.</b></p> <p><b>B. Understand the differences between converging, diverging and transformational plate boundaries</b></p> <p><b>C. Understand earthquakes and volcanos as results of plate motion.</b></p> <p><b>D. Introduce other types of landforms and their formation.</b></p>	<p><b>ACTIVITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present evidence to support arguments for the theory of plate motion.</li> <li>• Investigate geographic examples, including the Ring of Fire</li> <li>• Research recent occurrences and how scientists predict and measure Earthquakes and volcanos.</li> <li>• Determine if landforms were created by processes of erosion (e.g., wind, water, and/or ice) based on evidence in pictures, video, and/or maps. Use models created in classrooms. Locate areas that are being created (deposition) and destroyed (erosion) using maps and satellite images.</li> </ul> <p><b>VOCABULARY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fault- a crack in Earth's crust along which movement has taken place.</li> <li>• Plateau- a high landform with a flat top</li> <li>• Fold- a bend in layers of rock</li> <li>• Volcano- a mountain that builds up around an opening in Earth's surface.</li> <li>• Mountain- a tall landform that rises to a peak.</li> <li>• Earthquake- a sudden shaking of the rock that makes up Earth's crust.</li> <li>• Seismic Wave- a vibration caused by an earthquake.</li> <li>• Seismograph- an instrument that detects and records earthquakes; shows seismic waves and jagged lines along a graph.</li> </ul>	

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<b>Enduring Knowledge 6: <i>Earth materials reflect the processes that formed them.</i></b>		
<p><b>A. Rocks have properties of color, texture and hardness. Rocks can be classified by their physical properties.</b></p> <p><b>B. Rock is composed of different combinations of minerals that have formed under different conditions.</b></p> <p><b>C. Understand basis for crystal formation</b></p>	<p><b>ACTIVITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observe and compare the properties of rocks.</li> <li>• Illustrate the rock cycle demonstrating how Igneous, Metamorphic and Sedimentary rocks are changed to create the cycle.</li> <li>• Distinguish physical properties of sedimentary, igneous, or metamorphic rocks and explain how one kind of rock could eventually become a different kind of rock.</li> <li>• Observe, identify and compare components of soils and rocks.</li> <li>• Create a model to represent how soil is formed.</li> <li>• Make and compare crystals and their properties.</li> </ul> <p><b>VOCABULARY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weathering- the breaking down of rocks into smaller pieces.</li> <li>• Erosion- the weathering and removal of rock and soil.</li> <li>• Deposition- the dropping off of eroded soil and bits of rock.</li> <li>• Terminus- a downhill end of a glacier where glacial till and other debris are deposited.</li> <li>• Moraine- a large body of weathered rock deposited by the edge of a glacier.</li> <li>• Sedimentary Rock- a rock that forms when small bits of matter are pressed together in layers.</li> <li>• Metamorphic Rock- rock formed from another kind of rock under heat and pressure.</li> <li>• Igneous Rock- rock that forms when melted rock cools and hardens.</li> <li>• Rock Cycle- the process by which rocks continuously change from one type to another.</li> </ul>	



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<b>Enduring Knowledge 7: <i>Earth materials provide resources for all living things but these resources are limited and should be conserved.</i></b>		
<p><b>A. Identify a variety of minerals</b></p> <p><b>B. Explore sources of minerals, including local ones, and commercial uses of several minerals.</b></p> <p><b>C. Identify natural and agricultural products people use.</b></p> <p><b>D. Know that different products and different ways of handling products have environmental and human impact.</b></p>	<p><b>ACTIVITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Introduce Moh’s scale, the streak test, cleavage, and understanding how colors are interpreted.</li> <li>● Students can conduct independent research reports or presentations. Information can be pooled and used to build a study guide.</li> <li>● Identify the natural resources used in the process of making various manufactured products.</li> <li>● Distinguish between renewable and non-renewable sources.</li> <li>● Identify and collaborate with local resources</li> </ul> <p><b>VOCABULARY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Minerals- a natural, non-living, solid material found in rock.</li> <li>● Color-a perception of light</li> <li>● Luster- the ability for an object to be shiny</li> <li>● Streak- the ability for a rock or mineral to be scratched.</li> <li>● Hardness- the quality of condition for an object to be hard.</li> </ul>	

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<b>Enduring Knowledge 8: <i>All things on Earth can be classified as non-living or living.</i></b>		
<p><b>A. Define life.</b></p> <p><b>B. Identify components of ecosystems that are living and non-living.</b></p> <p><b>C. Compare larger non-living and living things with smaller (microscopic) non-living and living things.</b></p>	<p><b>ACTIVITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and categorize the basic needs of living organisms as they relate to the environment.</li> <li>• Practice looking at different ecosystems and identifying abiotic (climate) and biotic factors (predator and prey) in each.</li> <li>• Introduce varying types of microscopic life and conditions such as bacteria.</li> </ul> <p><b>VOCABULARY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biotic- a living part of an ecosystem</li> <li>• Abiotic- a non-living part of an ecosystem</li> <li>• Ecosystem- the living and non-living things in an ecosystem and all of their interactions.</li> <li>• Population- all members of a species that live in an ecosystem</li> <li>• Community- all the populations in an ecosystem</li> <li>• Food Chain- energy that passes from one organism to another</li> <li>• Predator- an organism that hunts for food</li> <li>• Prey- an organism hunted by others for food</li> <li>• Producer- organisms that make their own food using energy and sunlight</li> <li>• Consumer- organisms who cannot make their own food</li> <li>• Decomposers- organisms that break down waste and the remains of other organisms into simpler substances</li> <li>• Carnivore- animal that eats other animals</li> <li>• Omnivore- animal that eats plants and animals</li> <li>• Herbivore- animal that eats plants</li> </ul>	

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<b>Enduring Knowledge 9: <i>Living things are made of cells.</i></b>		
<p><b>A. Describe how larger living things are made up of systems that are made up of organs; made up of tissues; made up of cells.</b></p> <p><b>B. Understand that cells are the basic working component of all living things.</b></p> <p><b>C. Recognize parts and functions of a basic animal cell including DNA, nucleus, cytoplasm, and cell membrane.</b></p> <p><b>D. Introduce a compound light microscope and examine a cell.</b></p>	<p><b>ACTIVITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce magnification and the basic parts and functions of the compound light microscope.</li> <li>• Have students make cell models.</li> <li>• Compare plants and animal cells; introduce mitochondria in animal cells and chloroplasts in plant cells.</li> <li>• Use any variety of cell types from human and animal to plants and microscopic organisms.</li> </ul> <p><b>VOCABULARY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cell- the smallest living unit of matter.</li> <li>• Oxygen- a gas found in the air and water that plants and animals need to live.</li> <li>• Organism- a living thing that that carries out basic functions on its own.</li> <li>• Tissues- a group of similar cells that that work together to carry out a job.</li> <li>• Organ- a group of tissues that work together to carry out a job.</li> <li>• Organ System- a group of organs that work together to carry out a job.</li> </ul>	

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<b>Enduring Knowledge 10: <i>Living things can be classified into two domains or six kingdoms.</i></b>		
<p><b>A. Recognize a need to classify objects.</b></p> <p><b>B. Introduce a classification system that is based on two domains or six kingdoms.</b></p> <p><b>C. Compare and contrast invertebrates and vertebrates.</b></p>	<p><b>ACTIVITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have student's group screws, nails, etc....into characteristic groups.</li><li>• Conduct activities or projects that allow for individual or group explorations of different phyla invertebrates and vertebrates.</li></ul> <p><b>VOCABULARY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Traits- a characteristic of a living thing.</li><li>• Kingdom- the largest group into which an organism can be classified.</li><li>• Classification- grouping organisms by their traits</li><li>• Microorganism- an organism that cannot be seen with the naked eye.</li></ul>	

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<b>Enduring Knowledge 11: <i>Living things undergo changes throughout their life cycle.</i></b>		
<p><b>A. Review the human life cycle.</b>  <b>B. Recognize life cycle stages of other living things.</b>  <b>C. Introduce that some creatures can be produced by one parent whereas for others, like humans, it takes two parents.</b></p>	<p><b>ACTIVITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include infancy, childhood, adolescence and adulthood.</li> <li>• Determine the characteristic changes that occur during the life cycle of plants and animals by examining a variety of species, and distinguish between growth and development.</li> <li>• Mealworms can be used for the beetle, caterpillars for butterflies, etc...can discuss incomplete and complete metamorphosis</li> <li>• Show examples of cells arising from cells</li> </ul> <p><b>VOCABULARY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growth- the process of changing in physical size</li> <li>• Development- a changing process that occurs over time where new adaptations aid in survival.</li> <li>• Reproduction- the process of passing down genetic material to keep a species alive.</li> <li>• Metamorphosis- a series of separate body forms during an animals development</li> <li>• Heredity- the passing of traits from parent to offspring.</li> <li>• Endoskeleton- an internal support system.</li> <li>• Exoskeleton- an external support system.</li> <li>• Inherited Behavior- behaviors that are natural</li> <li>• Learned Behaviors- behaviors that are learned</li> </ul>	

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<b>Enduring Knowledge 12: <i>Plants and animals have structures for digestion, respiration, waste disposal, and transport of materials.</i></b>		
<p><b>A. Recognize that every organism needs energy derived from food.</b></p> <p><b>B. Compare heterotrophs and autotrophs.</b></p> <p><b>C. Recognize structures for the digestive system in humans.</b></p> <p><b>D. Recognize structures for a respiratory system in humans.</b></p> <p><b>E. Recognize structures for the human circulatory system.</b></p>	<p><b>ACTIVITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a list of examples for both groups</li> <li>• Create a human body project illustrating the systems and their parts.</li> <li>• Create a human body project illustrating the systems and their parts.</li> <li>• Create a human body project illustrating the systems and their parts.</li> </ul> <p><b>VOCABULARY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skeletal System- system of the body, made from bones, that supports the body.</li> <li>• Muscular System- system of the body that controls the muscles</li> <li>• Nervous System- system of the body that controls the senses and other systems.</li> <li>• Respiratory System- system of the body that exchanges gasses</li> <li>• Circulatory System- system of the body that pumps blood through the body</li> <li>• Excretory System- system of the body that eliminates waste</li> <li>• Digestive System- system of the body that breaks down food</li> <li>• Heterotrophs- an organism that eats other living organisms for nutrition</li> <li>• Autotrophs- an organism that makes its own food</li> </ul>	

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<b>Enduring Knowledge 13: <i>Perceiving and responding to information about the environment is critical to the survival of organisms.</i></b>		
<b>A. Understand what a reflex is; stimulus and response</b> <b>B. Recognize structures of the human nervous system.</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brainstorm human/ animal reflexes important for survival</li><li>• Create a human body project illustrating the systems and their parts.</li></ul> <b>VOCABULARY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reflex- a muscle response to a stimulus</li><li>• Stimulus- senses that the body receives and responds to.</li><li>• Response- the reaction to a stimulus.</li></ul>	

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<b>Enduring Knowledge 14: <i>Plants carry out reproduction in a variety of ways.</i></b>		
<p><b>A. Plants can reproduce through the production of seed. Some seed is hidden within fruit and some are exposed as in cones.</b></p> <p><b>B. Seeds are built for dispersal.</b></p> <p><b>C. Discuss basic plant life cycles.</b></p>	<p><b>ACTIVITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Investigate illustrations of various plants and their seeds</li><li>• Demonstrate how certain seeds travel</li><li>• Discover and observe by planting sunflower seeds</li></ul> <p><b>VOCABULARY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Photosynthesis- chemical process that converts light energy into sugars</li><li>• Chlorophyll- pigment in plants that give it a green color and collect energy</li><li>• Root- part of the plant that holds it into the ground and takes in water and minerals</li><li>• Spore- a cell in a seeded plant that can grow into a new plant.</li><li>• Stem- part of the plant that holds the plant up and carries food, water, and other minerals to and from the plants leaves.</li><li>• Stomata- pores on the bottom of leaves that open and close to exchange gases.</li><li>• Pollination- the transfer of a flower's pollen from anther to pistil.</li><li>• Plant Life Cycle- the complete change from seed to flowering plant.</li><li>• Transpiration- the release of water vapor through the stomata of a plant.</li></ul>	



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<b>Enduring Knowledge 15: <i>Characteristics in structure and behavior may improve an organism's chance of survival.</i></b>		
<p><b>A. Traits are characteristics that are inherited through DNA from parent to offspring.</b></p> <p><b>B. Changes in DNA, called mutations, can lead to changes in traits.</b></p> <p><b>C. Know mutations can be bad for an organism.</b></p> <p><b>D. Know mutations can be good for an organism.</b></p>	<p><b>ACTIVITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have students discuss certain traits that can be inherited from their parents</li> <li>• Explore how certain species have changed over time through evolution (ex: changes in color coats)</li> <li>• Have students investigate how certain mutations have negatively affected an organism.</li> <li>• Discuss animals camouflaging in their environment</li> </ul> <p><b>VOCABULARY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adaptation- a change that helps an organism survive</li> <li>• Hibernate- a period of sleep or rest through a winter</li> <li>• Camouflage- an adaptation where animals blend in with their surroundings</li> <li>• Mimicry- an adaptation where animals look like other organisms to aid in survival</li> <li>• Extinct- when the last of a species dies.</li> </ul>	