Introduction to PRIME

WIDA developed PRIME as a tool to assist publishers and educators in analyzing their materials for the presence of key components of the WIDA Standards Framework. PRIME stands for Protocol for Review of Instructional Materials for ELLs.

The PRIME correlation process identifies how the components of the 2012 Amplification of the English Language Development Standards, Kindergarten through Grade 12, and the Spanish Language Development (SLD) Standards, Kindergarten through Grade 12 are represented in instructional materials. These materials may include core and supplemental texts, websites and software (e.g., apps, computer programs), and other ancillary materials. PRIME is not an evaluative tool that judges the effectiveness of published materials.

Those who complete WIDA PRIME Correlator Trainings receive PRIME Correlator Certification. This may be renewed annually. Contact WCEPS for pricing details at store@wceps.org or 877-272-5593.

New in This Edition

PRIME has been expanded to include

- Correlation to the WIDA Standards Framework
- Connections to English and Spanish Language Development Standards
- Relevance for both U.S. domestic and international audiences

Primary Purposes

- To assist educators in making informed decisions about selecting instructional materials for language education programs
- To inform publishers and correlators on the various components of the WIDA Standards Framework and of their applicability to the development of instructional materials

Primary Audience

- Publishers and correlators responsible for ensuring their instructional materials address language development as defined by the WIDA English and Spanish Language Development Standards
- District administrators, instructional coaches, and teacher educators responsible for selecting instructional materials inclusive of or targeted to language learners

At WIDA, we have a unique perspective on how to conceptualize and use language development standards. We welcome the opportunity to work with both publishers and educators. We hope that in
using this inventory, publishers and educators will gain a keener insight into the facets involved in the language development of language learners, both in the U.S. and internationally, as they pertain to products.

**Overview of the PRIME Process**

PRIME has two parts. In Part 1, you complete an inventory of the materials being reviewed, including information about the publisher, the materials’ intended purpose, and the intended audience.

In Part 2, you answer a series of yes/no questions about the presence of the criteria in the materials. You also provide justification to support your “yes” responses. If additional explanations for “No” answers are relevant to readers’ understanding of the materials, you may also include that in your justification. Part 2 is divided into four steps which correspond to each of the four elements being inventoried; see the following table.

**PRIME at a Glance**

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PRIME Part 1: Provide Information about Materials
Provide information about each title being correlated.

Publication Title(s): BrainPOP ESL
Publisher: BrainPOP
Materials/Program to be Reviewed: BrainPOP ESL
Tools of Instruction included in this review: BrainPOP ESL: https://esl.brainpop.com/, accompanying lesson plans and resources on BrainPOP Educators: https://educators.brainpop.com/
Intended Teacher Audiences: K-12 EL teachers, classroom teachers, resource teachers, homeschool teachers, after school teachers
Intended Student Audiences: ELs in grades K-12, newcomer ELs, ELs learning on their own, ELs around the world
Language domains addressed in material: Listening, speaking, reading, writing
Check which set of standards will be used in this correlation:
☐ WIDA Spanish Language Development Standards
X WIDA English Language Proficiency Standards
WIDA Language Proficiency Levels included: Levels 1-5
Most Recently Published Edition or Website: 2016
In the space below explain the focus or intended use of the materials:

BrainPOP ESL is a comprehensive, online, English-language learning program that models English and motivates students through highly engaging animated movies and associated features and activities. Students progress from beginning to advanced levels practicing conversational and academic English in all four language domains. Bringing together the best of language-learning pedagogy and innovative, interactive media, BrainPOP ESL continuously engages and challenges English language learners while remaining sensitive to their varying needs and learning styles.
The flexible and intuitive format lends itself well to blended and integrative learning models. Following presentation of new content and concepts through the animated movies, students can continue as a group or on their own, in or out of school, using the additional online features and resources to engage with content and practice language skills. The movies range from simple, every day scenarios to more complex, core content-related topics. Idiomatic and cultural nuances, as expressed through the actions of the endearing and funny characters, model social cues and demonstrate how to use the English language in every day contexts.

To support teachers, BrainPOP ESL provides numerous resources for each lesson. Detailed lesson plans incorporate communicative activities and learning strategies involving higher order thinking skills. Printable resources accompany the lesson plans, including graphic organizers, images, and reproducible classroom activities. What sets BrainPOP ESL apart is the highly engaging and motivating animated content. Combining that with the comprehensive academic program, the robust teacher support materials, and the inherent flexibility of the program, BrainPOP ESL is uniquely suited to meet the needs of any learning environment.
PRIME Part 2: Correlate Your Materials

1. Asset-Based Philosophy

A. Representation of Student Assets and Contributions
The WIDA Standards Framework is grounded in an asset-based view of students and the resources and experiences they bring to the classroom, which is the basis for WIDA’s Can Do Philosophy.

1) Are the student assets and contributions considered in the materials? Yes No

2) Are the student assets and contributions systematically considered throughout the materials? Yes No

Justification: Provide examples from materials as evidence to support each “yes” response for this section. Provide descriptions, not just page numbers.

1. Student assets and contributions are considered in BrainPOP ESL. Make-a-Map, BrainPOP’s concept mapping tool, is one of the features in every BrainPOP ESL lesson. Students transform information into knowledge by making meaningful connections between their thoughts and ideas using BrainPOP images, keywords, and movie clips. It gives students a space to creatively represent their thinking, and to visualize relationships among concepts. Make-a-Map empowers students to draw connections among multiple concepts based on their own prior knowledge. The result is a visual representation of the concept that they, themselves, have created. This makes the learning personal. They own it, and that’s powerful.
Various activities are suggested to activate prior knowledge and make connections to content, such as Say Something, Anticipation Guides, Language Experience Approach, and KWL charts. For example, in a Level 3 lesson about Mount Everest, students complete an Anticipation Guide, and then verify their answers as they watch the movie.

The Level 1 lesson There Are Monsters features the language structures there is/there are. In an example of meaningful interaction with content, partners are encouraged to describe their own rooms to each other. This is followed by suggested differentiated and scaffolded activities. Students practice the target structure, in listening, speaking, reading, and writing activities about themselves. Below is an excerpt from the accompanying lesson plan on BrainPOP Educators.

3. My Room. Do an imagery exercise with the class as a Think-Aloud. Model describing your room at home for the class. For example: “I am imagining my room. There is a table in my room. There are seven books on the table. There is a window. There are no pictures on the walls. There is a white cat on my bed.” Now ask partners to describe their rooms to each other. Differentiate the activity as appropriate. Options include: 1) Partners relate simple sentences to each other; 2) One student describes his room while his partner draws it on a blank page; 3) Each student draws a simple picture of his or her room, describes it for his or her partner to draw, then they exchange and compare the two drawings; or 4) Give the students time to write a simple paragraph about their rooms and then exchange papers for a partner to draw according to the written description. Students may use the BrainPOP ESL Word List for a list of all the vocabulary they have learned so far, or for any additional vocabulary they require.
2.
Student assets and contributions are systematically considered throughout BrainPOP ESL. Always engaging and motivating, BrainPOP ESL movies generally begin with a hook – a problem or predicament that the students can relate to. For example, in Scientific Method, featuring modal auxiliaries, Ben and Moby try to figure out what’s wrong with their dog. They solve their problem using the scientific method that Ben had just learned in school, and the target grammar and vocabulary of the lesson. This is an example of how BrainPOP ESL engages students with situational language - using the target language and content in real world, relatable situations that students then apply to themselves.

One of the resources in the Teacher Resources area is the page of suggested Activities for Flash Words. Flash Words is a feature that accompanies every BrainPOP ESL lesson (see images below). Among the suggestions are strategies that prompt students to make connections and engage with new vocabulary through such activities as Connect Two, Story Impression, or finding cognates. Word Maps, or Frayer Models, are also suggested as a way for students to use background knowledge to illustrate the concept of a new word.
The format of BrainPOP ESL is consistent throughout the program. Each lesson begins with the three animated movies: the main movie, or story, plus two separate movies explaining the new vocabulary and grammar. The movies are followed by eight interactive features involving practice in all four language domains. Students learn to navigate and “own” the site very quickly as they engage with and relate to the characters.

Further evidence of consideration of students’ assets is My BrainPOP, BrainPOP’s suite of features that lets teachers and students keep track of learning. It allows for more individualized learning since teachers can focus on each student’s individual needs and progress. With myBrainPOP, students receive individual log-ins. They are able to submit to teachers the work they’ve done on various features. Teachers, in turn, are able to see how students have done on those features, and most importantly, send personal feedback on their work. Teachers are also able to see who’s watched a lesson’s main, vocabulary, and grammar movies. Below is an example of a student’s timeline on My BrainPOP.
2. Academic Language

WIDA believes that developing language entails much more than learning words. WIDA organizes academic language into three dimensions: discourse, sentence, and word/phrase dimensions situated in sociocultural contexts. Instructional material developers are encouraged to think of how the design of the materials can reflect academic language as multi-dimensional.

A. Discourse Dimension (e.g., amount, structure, density, organization, cohesion, variety of speech/written text)

1) Do the materials address language features at the discourse dimension in a consistent manner for all identified proficiency levels?  
   Yes  No

2) Are the language features at the discourse dimension addressed systematically throughout the materials?  
   Yes  No
1. BrainPOP ESL addresses language features at the discourse dimension for all proficiency levels throughout the program. New language and content are introduced in the animated movies through spoken discourse that is appropriate for developmental and language levels. Reading and writing are present throughout the program in the Read It and Write It features. At the beginning level, students read and write words and phrases, and progress to multi-paragraph essays at the advanced proficiency level. Differentiated instruction and scaffolding provide learning opportunities for all proficiency levels and across all language domains. Besides the suggestions for differentiated activities, the accompanying lesson plans often provide extension activities for further challenges.

Below is an excerpt from the lesson plan that accompanies the level 3 movie Thanks for Nothing! (L3U4L5). The lesson is an example of how language features at the discourse dimension are addressed. It suggests a variety of activities to practice the language and content in all four language domains and across all language proficiency levels. The theme of the movie Thanks for Nothing is similar to that of The Little Red Hen. The grammar practiced in the lesson is gerunds and infinitives. As seen in the lesson procedure below, students listen to the story read aloud to them, watch the BrainPOP ESL movie, discuss and interact with a partner or small group, and represent their ideas on a story map graphic organizer. They may also illustrate the two stories on storyboards and compare them on a Venn Diagram with drawings, words, phrases, or sentences.

Lesson Procedure:
1. **Compare the Stories.** Read The Little Red Hen to the class or show a video of the story. Have students complete a Story Map Graphic Organizer. Tell the class that in the movie Thanks for Nothing! (L3U4L5), Ben asks his friends to help him bake a cake. Do they decide to help or not? After watching the movie, have students complete the Story Map Graphic Organizer again. With a partner, have students discuss the similarities and differences between the story of The Little Red Hen and the movie Thanks for Nothing! (L3U4L5), and complete a Venn Diagram. Have partners share their ideas with the class.

2. **Gerund or Infinitive?** Distribute the cloze exercise or display the sentences on the board (see Preparation). Have students complete the sentences with the gerund or infinitive form of the verbs in parentheses. When they finish, students can use Hear It, Say It to check their answers.

3. **Verb Card Game.** Put the verb cards in two piles (A and B). There is no particular order the cards must be in. Students select a card from each pile and construct a sentence using both words. Their sentence must contain either a gerund or infinitive. For example, if they pick plan and talk, then they can say, "I plan to talk to my friend tomorrow."
2. Language features at the discourse dimension are addressed systematically in BrainPOP ESL. Linguistic complexity is evident in the robust reading and writing components of each lesson (the Read It and Write It features). Level I begins with sound-letter correspondence as students learn to read and write words and short phrases. They progress to constructing simple sentences, and finish the level reading a simple paragraph and guided paragraph-writing.

Level 2 deals with reading and writing single paragraphs. Each unit features a different text structure in reading and writing: narrative, informational, or persuasive, progressing from one to three-paragraph essays.

Level 3 presents more complex essays, adding text structures such as problem-solution and compare-contrast, according to the academic language and content of the units. Reading and writing learning is supported throughout with graphic organizers and literacy-learning strategies presented in the Lesson Ideas that accompany every lesson on BrainPOP Educators. Examples of literacy strategies range from Language Experience Approach, Story Impression, Quick Write, Roundtable, Think Aloud, Say Something/Write Something, and Shared Writing. Learning strategies in the accompanying lesson plans are presented with ideas for differentiation, and provide opportunities to practice language in all four domains.

B. Sentence Dimension (e.g., types, variety of grammatical structures, formulaic and idiomatic expressions; conventions)

1) Do the materials address language features at the sentence dimension for all of the identified proficiency levels?  
   Yes  No

2) Are the language features at the sentence dimension appropriate for the identified proficiency levels?  
   Yes  No

3) Are the language features at the sentence dimension addressed systematically throughout the materials?  
   Yes  No
1. BrainPOP ESL addresses language features at the sentence dimension for all the identified proficiency levels. The type of grammatical structures and language forms are presented in the context of the movies and match in purpose. For example, in the Level 1 movie *Five Dogs* (L1U1L4), adjectives are taught in short descriptive phrases:

![The brown dog is behind the tree.](image1)

![The small dog is under the table.](image2)

The level 2 movie *The Hungrier Shopper* (L2U5L1) presents comparative adjectives and adverbs at a higher language proficiency level and more complex content:
2. Language features at the sentence dimension are appropriate for the identified proficiency levels. BrainPOP ESL consists of three proficiency levels, progressing from beginner to advanced in all language domains. Each level contains six units that build upon reach other, with five lessons in each unit. There are 30 lessons per level, for a total of 90 lessons. When beginning BrainPOP ESL, students may take a Placement Test that identifies the level and unit they should begin the program. It places them in one of six designations, as follows:

- **Beginning**: Level 1, Units 1-3
- **High Beginning**: Level 1, Units 4-6
- **Intermediate**: Level 2, Units 1-3
- **High Intermediate**: Level 2, Units 4-6
- **Advanced**: Level 3, Units 1-3
- **High Advanced**: Level 3, Units 4-6.

The level of complexity increases with each unit and level, with more scaffolds to support learning at the beginning level. A variety of scaffolds are used, such as word banks, sentence frames, and graphic organizers. Closed-captioning is always available onscreen, and may be turned on and off according to need.

3. Language features at the sentence dimension are addressed systematically throughout BrainPOP ESL. The format of every BrainPOP ESL lesson is the same. Each lesson has a separate grammar movie which explains and illustrates, in animated form, the target grammar or language convention of the lesson. Students then encounter the language in the movie, and have numerous opportunities to engage with and practice the language in the interactive features and lesson plan activities. Linguistic complexity and content increase in complexity in each of the three proficiency levels. Below is an example from the grammar movie **Endangered Animals** (L3U1L1), a level 3 movie teaching the language of the passive voice:
C. Word/Phrase Dimension (multiple meanings of words, general, specific, and technical language¹)

1) Do the materials address language features at the word/phrase dimension in a consistent manner for all identified proficiency levels?  
   Yes  No

2) Are words, expressions, and phrases represented in context?  
   Yes  No

3) Is the general, specific, and technical language appropriate for the targeted proficiency levels?  
   Yes  No

4) Is the general, specific, and technical² language systematically presented throughout the materials?  
   Yes  No

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²General language refers to words or expressions not typically associated with a specific content areas (e.g., describe a book). Specific language refers to words or expressions used across multiple academic content areas in school (chart, total, individual). Technical language refers to the most precise words or expressions associated with topics within academic content areas in school and is reflective of age and developmental milestones.
Justification: Provide examples from materials as evidence to support each “yes” response for this section. Provide descriptions, not just page numbers.

1. BrainPOP ESL addresses language features, such as formulaic expressions, idioms, multiple meaning words, shades of meaning, and collocations, at the word/phrase dimension in a consistent manner for all identified proficiency levels. **Formulaic expressions** are learned in the context of the movies. For example, imperatives, such as “Look out!” and “Be careful” are taught in the beginning lesson **Run! Don’t Stop!** (L1U1L5). “Good job!” is learned in the lesson **You’re Not Listening** (L1U2L2). Phrases such as “Have a good time” are taught in **We Have a Good Time** (L1U4L4), a lesson that teaches have/has. The example below is from the vocabulary movie of **Thanks for Nothing** (L3U4L5), illustrating the formulaic expressions “waste time” and “waste money.”

![Formulaic Expressions Example](image)

The literal and figurative meanings of idioms are taught throughout the program. In the Level 2 lesson, **Take Up a Hobby** (L2U1L1), students learn and practice the meaning of the expression “Reach for the stars.” The Level 3 lesson **Egg on Your Face** (L3U6L4) deals entirely with idioms, and explicitly teaches the words “expression,” “idiom,” “literal,” and “figurative” in the vocabulary movie. Below is a screenshot from the interactive Practice feature.
Multiple meanings of words are addressed throughout BrainPOP ESL. Below are examples from the vocabulary movies of lessons from different proficiency levels. The first, from the lesson I Have to Practice (L2U2L4), illustrates two meanings of the word “short,” referring to size and time. The second, from the lesson Return to School (L3U2L3), illustrates the two meanings of the word “free.”
Nuances and shades of meaning are addressed at all proficiency levels. The level 2 lesson *It’s Almost Perfect* (L2U3L4) finds Ben and Moby using intensifier adverbs while building a tree house. In the accompanying lesson plan, students engage in activities using the following adverbs: *almost, completely, exactly, hardly, perfectly, well, really, very, so, too, enough*. The suggested activity “Weakest to Strongest” (shown below) allows students to apply the varying degrees of intensifiers to different situations and descriptions. Differentiated options are suggested in the activity, allowing students to apply words to one image or an array of images, or write in the labels and place them in the order of intensity. Further challenges are suggested, asking students to think of more examples to illustrate a spectrum or continuum using intensifier adverbs.

Another example of shades of meaning is seen in the Level 3 lesson *Little Red Fairytale* (L3U6L2), which teaches reported speech in an adaptation of *Little Red Riding Hood*. The excerpt from the lesson plan below shows how students practice using synonyms for “say” or “tell,” according to the situation and nuance of the language. Reporting verbs they choose from are: *add, admit, agree, complain, conclude, consider, convince, cry, explain, guess, inform, observe, persuade, promise, remind, repeat, roar, suggest, think, scream, shout, whisper, yell.*
Collocations are taught throughout BrainPOP ESL. They are introduced in the animated movies, in natural conversation between the characters. They are repeated not only in the movies, but also throughout the lesson, in the interactive features, and in all language domains, giving students multiple opportunities to use and practice the new language. Below are examples from the vocabulary movie of the level 1 lesson Who’s Making Noise? L1U2L3). Students are presented with multiple examples of phrases that go with the verbs “make” and “do.” The examples are visual, animated, engaging, and therefore, an effective way for students to learn, practice, and internalize language that is otherwise difficult to grasp.
Words, expressions, and phrases are never taught in isolation. They are always presented in the context of the movies, and with natural and developmentally appropriate language. For example, in the level 1 lesson You’re Not Listening (L1U2L2), the characters are on a class field trip to a museum. In the context of the story, students learn new words and phrases, such as “touch,” “don’t touch,” “look,” “listen,” “pay attention,” “be careful,” and “come on,” while learning the negative form of the present progressive (“I’m not touching. I’m just looking!”).

The level 3 content lesson, Styles of Art (L3U5L1), teaches such vocabulary as “style,” “portrait,” “abstract,” “concrete,” “influence,” and “impression,” as students learn about different styles in art history. At the same time, they are learning and practicing the new words and phrases through the target grammar of first conditionals and time clauses (“If you don’t stay still, I will never finish painting your portrait!”). Below is an example from the same movie, showing how multiple meanings are presented in the context of the movie, and explicitly teaching the meaning of the words at the same time.
Academic language is always presented in the context of the movies, and practiced in the context of the particular tasks. The level 3 lesson What Nikki Wants (L3U6L3) is about how Ben responds to demands of his sick friend, Nikki. In this lesson, students learn the academic language of reported speech questions, and specific academic vocabulary words such as: demand, order, request, infer, examine, respond, complicate. The example below is from the vocabulary movie.

The following excerpt from the Reported Questions lesson plan suggests that students create their own game to practice some of the specific academic vocabulary words of the lesson: demand, order, request, infer, examine, respond, complicate. Students think of their own situations to illustrate the meaning or concept of each word, and then play their game with a partner or small group.
3. General, specific, and technical language is appropriate for the targeted proficiency levels. Vocabulary is always presented in the main movie, and more explicitly taught in the accompanying vocabulary movie. New words and phrases are used in two different animated examples, often with clarifying sentences or examples. As the vocabulary becomes more abstract at higher levels of proficiency, target words are presented with word connections and word families. The interactive features of each lesson, as well as the lesson plan activities, provide opportunities to engage with and practice the new language. The features and activities are always aligned with the proficiency level of the lesson and developmentally appropriate.

In the level 2 lesson **Butterfly Life Cycle** (L2U6L2), examples of general vocabulary are “life” and “butterfly;” specific vocabulary: “cycle;” and technical vocabulary: “life cycle” and “chrysalis.” In the vocabulary movie, the concept of “life cycle” is scaffolded, as students are first introduced to the concepts of life and cycle, followed by examples of life cycles. The concepts are further explored and practiced in the lesson plan activities.

In the level 3 lesson **Circulatory System** (L3U4L1), examples of general vocabulary are “air” and “beat;” specific vocabulary: “exercise” and “heart;” and technical vocabulary: “artery,” “vein,” “oxygen,” “pulse,” and “lung.”

4. General, specific, and technical language is systematically present throughout BrainPOP ESL. Every lesson, from beginning to advanced, follows the same format. There are three animated movies: the main story or content movie, the vocabulary movie, and the grammar movie. New vocabulary words and phrases are presented in the context of the main movie. The new words/phrases are specifically treated in the vocabulary movie, with animation and examples of how they are used, and often expanded upon with word connections and word families. Students have many opportunities to engage with and practice the new language, in all domains, in the lesson plan activities, and in the interactive features that follow the movies. Included in the features are:

- **Flash Words**, where students practice the target vocabulary and phrases in a number of activities and games;
- **Hear It, Say It**, a listening and recording feature;
- **Read It** and **Write It**, where students progress in receptive and productive literacy;
- **Play It** and **Practice**, two gaming features where students respond to vocabulary, grammar, and content questions;
- **Make-a-Map**, a concept mapping tool; and
- the **Quiz**, ten vocabulary, grammar, and content questions, in a choice of classic or review mode.
3. Performance Definitions

The WIDA Performance Definitions define the WIDA levels of language proficiency in terms of the three dimensions of academic language described above (discourse, sentence, word/phrase) and across six levels of language development.

A. Representation of Levels of Language Proficiency

1) Do the materials differentiate between the language proficiency levels? Yes No

2) Is differentiation of language proficiency developmentally and linguistically appropriate for the designated language levels? Yes No

3) Is differentiation of language systematically addressed throughout the materials? Yes No
Justification: Provide examples from materials as evidence to support each “yes” response for this section. Provide descriptions, not just page numbers.

1. BrainPOP ESL differentiates between language proficiency levels. To determine students’ proficiency levels, they may take the Placement Test which assesses knowledge of vocabulary, language conventions, and receptive language in listening and reading comprehension passages. Students are placed in one of six levels ranging from beginning to advanced. The curriculum progresses in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, building upon knowledge learned in previous lessons.

Multiple activities, strategies, methods, and resources are included to help differentiate the material and make content comprehensible at different proficiency levels. Ideas for supports, scaffolding, and differentiation are suggested in the accompanying lesson plans. For example, below is an excerpt from the lesson plan of the Level 2 lesson, Butterfly Life Cycle (L2U6L2). There is also a separate lesson plan focusing more on the language objectives of the Butterfly Life Cycle lesson: Past Tense Review Lesson Plan.

In the Butterfly Life Cycle Lesson Plan shown below, we see a clear flow of scaffolded activities, beginning with understanding the word “cycle” and then distinguishing between a cycle and a life cycle. Students may label, illustrate, or represent their ideas on a graphic organizer. The next activity asks students to provide captions for the Butterfly Life Cycle Comic Strip. While students enjoy using the actual storyboards of our BrainPOP animators, they practice the language focus of the lesson. To differentiate for language proficiency levels, they may label the frames with words, phrases, or sentences. Further differentiation suggestions are to add a word bank, or to have students complete the storyboard as they rewatch the movie. The lesson plan ends with differentiated question prompts about the movie.
2.6.2 Butterfly Life Cycle Lesson Plan

Grade Levels: 3-5, 6-8, K-3

In the BrainPOP ESL movie, *Butterfly Life Cycle (L2U6L2)*, Ben and Moby present their research project on the life cycle of the butterfly to their class, describing what happened at each stage using the past simple and past progressive. In this lesson plan, adaptable for grades K-8, students demonstrate their understanding of the butterfly life cycle, and apply the concept to the big ideas about cycles and life cycles.

Lesson Plan Common Core State Standards Alignments

Students will:
- Define and give examples of the word cycle.
- Differentiate between cycles and life cycles.
- Illustrate and explain an example of a life cycle.
- Write captions for the events in the movie.
- Ask and answer questions about specific information in the movie.

Materials:
- BrainPOP ESL
- Butterfly Life Cycle Images
- Flow Chart Graphic Organizer
- Butterfly Life Cycle Comic Strip

Vocabulary:
- butterfly, caterpillar, chrysalis, life, cycle, life cycle

Preparation:
For Activity 2, What is a Life Cycle?, make copies of the Butterfly Life Cycle Images and the blank Flow Chart Graphic Organizer.

For Activity 3, Caption It!, make copies of the Butterfly Life Cycle Comic Strip.

Lesson Procedure:
1. After watching the movie *Butterfly Life Cycle (L2U6L2)*, distribute the Butterfly Life Cycle Comic Strip. Instruct students to write captions for each frame using the past simple and past progressive. Depending on students’ levels, some may just label with a verb or phrase, while others write complete sentences. If needed, provide a word bank with suggested prompts, such as base verbs and phrases.

2. Movie Questions. To practice using the past simple and past progressive, have students ask and answer questions about the movie *Butterfly Life Cycle (L2U6L2)*. To differentiate instruction, give students specific information to look for and questions to answer. For example: What were Ben and Moby doing while the students were coming into class? What was Moby doing? Where did Ben and Moby buy the caterpillars? Ask other students to write their own questions about details in the movie.

3. Differentiation of language proficiency is developmentally and linguistically appropriate for the designated language levels. Supports are provided at every level, with more suggestions offered for lower language proficiency levels. Examples of differentiation suggestions include partner work, small group work, images, word banks, sentence stems and frames, and accessing prior knowledge before introducing new content.

4. Differentiation of language is systematically presented throughout BrainPOP ESL. Teaching tips and suggestions accommodate for proficiency levels in lesson plans. Extension activities provide extra challenges for advanced students. Two resources in the Teacher Resource section offer differentiated suggestions to do with the Flash Word Activities, varying to account for language proficiency levels. And the activities suggested in Beginning Vocabulary Activities provide suggestions for beginning students in a higher grade level lesson.
B. Representation of Language Domains

WIDA defines language through expressive (speaking and writing) and receptive (reading and listening) domains situated in various sociocultural contexts.

1) Are the language domains (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) targeted in the materials?  Yes  No

2) Are the targeted language domains presented within the context of language proficiency levels?  Yes  No

3) Are the targeted language domains systematically integrated throughout the materials?  Yes  No

Justification: Provide examples from materials as evidence to support each “yes” response for this section. Provide descriptions, not just page numbers.

1.
All language domains (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) are addressed in BrainPOP ESL. Students listen and watch the animated movies for a presentation of the target language and content. They then practice and engage with the language and content in the accompanying interactive features. Features specifically address the language domains: Hear It, Say It (listening and recording), Read It (reading), and Write It (writing). Speaking is addressed throughout as students engage in partner and small group activities suggested in lesson plans. Language domains are often addressed together, as happens in natural language acquisition. For example, students are asked to pause and “Say Something” or “Write Something” about a movie they are watching and listening to.

Make-a-Map, the concept mapping feature, encourages students to interact with the content using all four language domains. Using Make-a-Map, they can write their ideas and read them. They can talk about their maps and listen to their peers.

2.
The targeted language domains are presented within the context of language proficiency levels. Receptive language is more prominent at the beginning level, with more tools and supports to make content comprehensible. Students can mouse over all text for words/phrases/sentences to be read aloud. Closed-captioning in the movies may be turned on or off. Tasks and skills required in the interactive features progress linguistically and developmentally. For example, at the beginning levels, the Play It and Practice features require students to recognize correct answers, rather than produce them, as seen in the example below from the first unit.
Beginning tasks require students to produce words, small chunks of language, or simple grammatical constructions. As levels advance, language progresses in length and complexity to specific and technical vocabulary, abstract language and concepts, and complex grammar and text structures. For example, beginning language patterns focus on the verb “to be,” subject pronouns, and basic adjectives and prepositions. Material advances to complex language patterns, such as progressive tenses, conditionals, passives, and reported speech. The scope and sequence can be seen in the BrainPOP ESL Curriculum, which is available in the Teacher Resources section of the home page.

A comprehensive breakdown of the language conventions presented in all 90 lessons can also be seen in the Grammar Index on the home page.
All four language domains are systematically integrated throughout the program. Each lesson presents the target content and language in the three animated movies: the main movie, vocabulary movie, and grammar movie. The movies are followed by the same eight interactive features in every lesson. The features target specific language domains. Hear It, Say It is a listening/recording activity. Read It and Write It develop reading and writing skills. And all of the features may be done with partners or small groups to allow for interaction among students.
4. The Strands of Model Performance Indicators and the Standards Matrices

The Strands of Model Performance Indicators (MPIs) provide sample representations of how language is processed or produced within particular disciplines and learning contexts. WIDA has five language development standards representing language in the following areas: Social and Instructional Language, The Language of Language Arts, The Language of Mathematics, The Language of Science, The Language of Social Studies as well as complementary strands including The Language of Music and Performing Arts, The Language of Humanities, The Language of Visual Arts.

The Standards Matrices are organized by standard, grade level, and domain (Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing). The standards matrices make an explicit connection to state academic content standards and include an example for language use. Each MPI includes a uniform cognitive function (adopted from Bloom’s taxonomy) which represents how educators can maintain the cognitive demand of an activity while differentiating for language. Each MPI provides examples of what students can reasonably be expected to do with language using various supports.
A. Connection to State Content Standards and WIDA Language Development Standards

1) Do the materials connect the language development standards to the state academic content standards? Yes  No

2) Are the academic content standards systematically represented throughout the materials? Yes  No

3) Are social and instructional language and one or more of the remaining WIDA Standards present in the materials? Yes  No

Justification: Provide examples from materials as evidence to support each “yes” response for this section. Provide descriptions, not just page numbers.

1. BrainPOP ESL does not connect language development standards to state academic content standards. However, it does connect to the Common Core State Standards. Common Core State Standard connections can be seen in every BrainPOP ESL lesson plan. To access the lesson plans, click on any “Lesson Ideas” button on the left side of every lesson page. Below is a screenshot from the lesson plan that accompanies the lesson Scientific Method (L2U4L3), with the extensive standards alignment section.
2.4.3 Scientific Method/Modals Lesson Plan

Grade Levels: 3-5, 6-8, K-3

In the BrainPOP ESL movie, *Scientific Method (L2U4L3)*, something is wrong with Moby’s dog, Fighter. He doesn’t want to go for a walk, play, or eat. Ben and Moby use the scientific method to find out what’s bothering him, and test their hypotheses with different experiments. In this lesson plan, adaptable for grades K-8, students use the modals may, might, and (be) supposed to as they engage with the scientific method.

Lesson Plan Common Core State Standards Alignments

**Lesson Plan Common Core State Standards Alignments**

**Grade 04**

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.1c
Use modal auxiliaries (e.g., can, may, must) to convey various conditions.

**Grade 05**

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.1.3
Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect.

**Grade 04**

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.1.3
Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.

**Grades 06, 07, 08**

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RST.6-8.3
Follow precisely a multistep procedure when carrying out experiments, taking measurements, or performing technical tasks.

**Grade 02**

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.2.2
Account or describe key ideas or details from a text read aloud or information presented orally through other media.

**Grade 03**

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3.1
Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 3 topics and texts; building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly.

**Grade 05**

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.3

**Students will:**

1. Use modals may or might to make predictions or hypotheses based on a visual prompt. (Language Objective)

2. Participate in a role-play to solve a problem. (Language Objective)

3. Summarize and retell the steps of the scientific method using the modal auxiliary be supposed to. (Language and Content Objective)

4. Take notes on a graphic organizer about the scientific method. (Content Objective)

5. Apply the scientific method to a new situation. (Content Objective)

2.

Academic content standards are systematically represented throughout BrainPOP ESL. The Common Core State Standards can be found in the lesson plans that accompany every BrainPOP ESL lesson.
3. Social and instructional language and one or more of the remaining WIDA Standards are present in BrainPOP ESL lessons. While most BrainPOP ESL lessons center around social interactions between the friends, there are also many core content topics. Following are some examples of BrainPOP ESL lessons addressing all WIDA Standards.

- Social and Instructional language is addressed in every BrainPOP ESL lesson.
- The language of Language Arts is addressed in every BrainPOP ESL lesson.
- The language of Mathematics is addressed in Probability and Area of Rectangles.
- The language of Science is addressed in Scientific Method, Circulatory System, and Camouflage.
- The language of Social Studies is addressed in Ancient Egypt and Mount Everest.
- The language of Music is addressed in Music Genres.
- The language of Visual Arts is addressed in Styles of Art.

B. Cognitive Challenge for All Learners at All Levels of Language Proficiency

1) Do materials present an opportunity for language learners to engage in various cognitive functions (higher order thinking skills from Bloom’s taxonomy) regardless of their language level? Yes  No

2) Are opportunities for engaging in higher order thinking systematically addressed in the materials? Yes  No

**Justification:** Provide examples from materials as evidence to support each “yes” response for this section. Provide descriptions, not just page numbers.

1. BrainPOP ESL provides an opportunity for language learners to engage in various cognitive functions regardless of proficiency level. Below are examples from the Practice feature from beginning and advanced lessons. They both require students to sort or categorize, but the levels of vocabulary knowledge and reading skills required are different.
In the following Odd Man Out games from the Practice feature, we see that students use higher order thinking skills to determine the item that doesn’t belong. Some of the cognitive functions involved in this activity are: explain, determine, consider, discuss, classify, distinguish, conclude, relate, analyze, relate, and justify. Students may base their decisions on different reasons, as we see in the examples below. They are also encouraged to think aloud with a partner, discussing their reasons, and thus, promoting more interaction with the language and content. Following are examples from beginning and advanced levels.
In the following examples from the level 1 lesson *Let’s Go Outside*, the exceptions (odd men out) can be about simple grammar topics or even pronunciation.

In the following examples from the level 3 lesson *Pond Ecosystem*, the content and language are more complex. In the last example, three of the four sentences contain gerund constructions, while the odd man out is present progressive with future intent.

**2. Opportunities for engaging in higher order thinking** are systematically addressed in BrainPOP ESL. Every lesson includes a different Play It and Practice feature. These features incorporate questions about the lesson vocabulary, grammar, and content in activities that require higher order thinking, as seen in the examples above. Every lesson also includes the Make-a-Map feature, prompting students to think about relationships among words, images, and concepts. More higher order thinking strategies and activities are included in every lesson plan. Below are excerpts from lesson plans. Cognitive and higher order thinking skills are always cited in the Objectives section of the lesson plans, as seen below.
1.2.4 Stative Verbs Lesson Plan

Grade Levels: 3-5, 6-8, K-3

In the BrainPOP ESL movie, I Love the Poppers! (L1234), Ben and Moby make a big mess while dancing around and listening to music. When they see Ben's mom coming home, only Moby can save the day! In this lesson plan adaptable for grades K-8, students distinguish stative from regular verbs, and create a book illustrating the two types of verbs.

Lesson Plan Common Core State Standards Alignments

Students will:
1. Sort sentences into categories that they determine, and explain their reasoning.
2. Compare and contrast stative verbs and verbs in the present progressive.
3. Create a book of regular and stative verbs, with illustrations and sentences.

2.4.3 Scientific Method/Modals Lesson Plan

Grade Levels: 3-5, 6-8, K-3

In the BrainPOP ESL movie, Scientific Method (L2456), something is wrong with Moby's dog, Fighter. He doesn't want to go for a walk, play, or eat. Ben and Moby use the scientific method to find out what's bothering him, and test their hypotheses with different experiments. In this lesson plan, adaptable for grades K-8, students use the modals may, might, and (be) supposed to as they engage with the scientific method.

Lesson Plan Common Core State Standards Alignments

Students will
1. Use modals may or might to make predictions or hypotheses based on a visual prompt. (Language Objective)
2. Participate in a role-play to solve a problem. (Language Objective)
3. Summarize and retell the steps of the scientific method using the modal auxiliary be supposed to. (Language and Content Objective)
4. Take notes on a graphic organizer about the scientific method. (Content Objective)
5. Apply the scientific method to a new situation. (Content Objective)
C. Supports for Various Levels of Language Proficiency

1) Do the materials provide scaffolding supports for students to advance within a proficiency level?  
Yes  No

2) Do the materials provide scaffolding supports for students to progress from one proficiency level to the next?  
Yes  No

3) Are scaffolding supports presented systematically throughout the materials?  
Yes  No

Justification: Provide examples from materials as evidence to support each “yes” response for this section. Provide descriptions, not just page numbers.

1. BrainPOP ESL provides scaffolding supports and tools for students to advance within proficiency levels. Audio support is provided by mousing over all text in beginning levels. Closed-captioning is provided throughout all levels, but may be turned off when not needed.

Visual support is probably the most important aid for language learners. With BrainPOP ESL, information is not only supported by the colorful and dynamic images, but also the highly engaging animation. Words are expanded upon, to present word families and connections, enabling students to create more associations. Below are examples of how paraphrasing new words in the movies provides immediate language support.

![Example of scaffolding supports](image1)

Next, we make a hypothesis, or guess, about what might be wrong with Fighter.

![Example of scaffolding supports](image2)

Animals that consume, or eat, plants or any living things, are called consumers.
The grammar movies present the new language in an animated version of a chart. In the example below, from the lesson *It's Nice, Isn't It?* (L1U5L2), it is clear how students understand the concept of the grammar (tag questions) by watching the animated presentation. Students see that tag questions are constructed using the opposite of the phrase. They can see that from the opposite sides of the screen, the plus and minus signs, and the black and white colors. All of these visual clues help students to grasp the concept of the grammar.

2. BrainPOP ESL provides scaffolding supports for students to progress from one proficiency level to the next. The curriculum is structured so that lessons, and language, build on each other. The multiple opportunities to practice target language in engaging and communicative activities facilitate the learning process and help students advance. Each of the interactive features allows students to practice the target language in all four language domains, all in the context of the lesson content. Flash Words for various vocabulary activities, Hear It, Say It for listening and recording, Read It and Write It for literacy practice, and Play It and Practice, which present vocabulary, grammar, and content questions in gaming features. Multiple opportunities to practice the language in different modalities enable students to advance within each lesson, within proficiency levels, and to progress from one proficiency level to the next.

Reading and writing in the beginning levels, for example, require students to recognize sounds and letters. As their reading skills advance, they read words, phrases and simple sentences. Writing begins with tracing letters and words, and advances to copying, completing sentences, guided paragraph-writing, and finally, to writing multi-paragraph essays in different text structures. Resources are provided to guide students through the process of learning. Such resources include printable images, activities, and graphic organizers. Following are several examples from lessons plans from all proficiency levels.

Images such as the Action Image below, are provided in the lesson plans, with suggestions to scaffold for more support, such as a word bank or sentence frames.
BrainPOP ESL animators’ storyboards are often provided for students to caption or sequence, with or without a word bank.

Graphic organizers are provided to support reading and writing, or to facilitate understanding of language or concepts.
Printable activities are provided, such as the examples below, from the lesson Looking for Lucky (L2U4L2). This lesson teaches the use of past progressive for parallel actions. The lesson plan provides printable sentence strips and/or images for students to match, sequence, and retell the events of the movie.

3.
Scaffolding supports are presented systematically throughout BrainPOP ESL. Target language and content are always presented in the three animated movies: the story or content movie, the vocabulary movie, and the grammar movie. Two of the interactive features of every BrainPOP ESL lesson are the Play It and Practice features. These are different interactive games for students to practice and reinforce the target language and content. The Make-a-Map feature is an effective learning tool for students of varying skills and language levels. Students of all levels can work with Make-a-Map, participating in the same activity about the same content. With Make-a-Map, students create their own meaning and connections with a concept so there are no wrong answers. All students are successful.
The accompanying lesson plans always provide multiple supports, including the printable resources mentioned above, plus scaffolded learning strategies, including the use of realia, word banks, sentence stems and frames, graphic organizers, charts, and suggestions for partner and small group work.

D. Accessibility to Grade Level Content

1) Is linguistically and developmentally appropriate grade-level content present in the materials?  
   Yes  No

2) Is grade-level content accessible for the targeted levels of language proficiency?  
   Yes  No

3) Is the grade-level content systematically presented throughout the materials?  
   Yes  No

*Justification: Provide examples from materials as evidence to support each “yes” response for this section. Provide descriptions, not just page numbers.*

1. Linguistically and developmentally appropriate grade level content is present in BrainPOP ESL. Most BrainPOP ESL movies are about social situations that the characters engage in. Students relate to the circumstances the characters find themselves in, which promotes situational language learning. Common Core State Standards are aligned to every BrainPOP ESL lesson plan. We see the appropriate grade level designations in those alignments. It is important to note, however, that BrainPOP ESL progresses according to language proficiency, and does not designate a particular grade level to language levels.

2. Grade level content is accessible for targeted levels of language proficiency. As students progress, both language and content become more complex. Beginning level lessons are about social situations. The intermediate level introduces academic core content themes, such as Mammals, Scientific Method, Butterfly Life Cycle, and Recycling. The advanced level has many academic content lessons, such as Endangered Animals, Music Genres, Camouflage, Mount Everest, History of Trains, Circulatory System, Probability, Styles of Art, Ancient Egypt, and Area of Rectangles. Language increases in complexity in each level, with such complex language in the advanced level as the passive voice, progressive tenses, infinitives and gerunds, conditionals, and reported speech.

3. Grade level content is not systematically presented in BrainPOP ESL. While there is grade level content at each language proficiency level, the design of the program follows language proficiency levels, not grade levels.
E. Strands of Model Performance Indicators

1) Do materials include a range of language functions?  
Yes  No

2) Are the language functions incorporated into a communicative goal or activity?  
Yes  No

3) Do the language functions support the progression of language development?  
Yes  No

Justification: Provide examples from materials as evidence to support each “yes” response for this section. Provide descriptions, not just page numbers.

1.
BrainPOP ESL provides a wide variety of language functions throughout the program, including, but not limited to: identify, match, draw, label, record, listen for, list, sequence, provide dialogue, role-play, find examples, take notes, respond to prompts, ask questions, retell, paraphrase, illustrate, describe, explain, distinguish, classify, sort, compare, summarize, explain, present, predict, transform, create.

Language functions are listed in the objectives section of every lesson plan, as seen in the excerpt below from the Recycling (L2U6L4) lesson.
2. Language functions occur within the context of learning tasks, activities, and communicative goals. All students participate in the shared activity of watching the BrainPOP ESL movies. They then respond in varied learning tasks involving cooperative and communicative vocabulary, grammar, literacy, or concept-attaining tasks. Done as partner or small group activities, students use the target language as they communicate and share ideas about the content. Examples of such learning tasks are sorting or categorizing words, making connections about words or concepts, thinking aloud, relating ideas, sequencing events from the movie, matching sentence halves, creating dialogues, doing jigsaws, participating in shared writing experiences, and playing games.

3. The language functions support the progression of language development. This can be seen in the BrainPOP ESL Curriculum. Below is an excerpt from the document, which outlines language functions, form, and content for the entire program.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIT / LESSON</th>
<th>FUNCTION</th>
<th>FORM</th>
<th>READING</th>
<th>WRITING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Introducing People, Describing Characters</td>
<td>Personal Pronouns, to Be (present affirmative)</td>
<td>Letters: be, am, is, Sample words: Ben, Ed</td>
<td>Trace letters, words, phrases, simple sentences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>Identifying What Things Are / Aren’t</td>
<td>to Be (negative)</td>
<td>Letters: have / has, Sample words: hat, pen, too</td>
<td>Trace letters, words, phrases, simple sentences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>Asking Questions</td>
<td>to Be (questions), Yes / No Questions, Wh- Questions</td>
<td>Letters: have / has, Sample words: is, it, am, robot</td>
<td>Trace letters, words, phrases, simple sentences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>Asking / Answering Questions, Describing Things, Identifying Places</td>
<td>Adjectives (form / place in the sentence), Prepositions of Place</td>
<td>Letters: with / with, Sample words: desk, red, but, under, we</td>
<td>Trace letters, words, phrases, simple sentences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Giving Commands</td>
<td>Imperatives</td>
<td>Letters: go / goes, Sample words: jump, let’s, stop, Let’s jump!</td>
<td>Trace letters, words, phrases, simple sentences</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>