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Science curricula are often criticized for being a mile wide and an inch deep. The result can be a frenetic race through disconnected topics. Both the recently released public draft of the *Next Generation Science Standards* and *A Framework for K-12 Science Education* therefore focus on a limited number of core ideas and crosscutting concepts ─ that is, the Big Ideas of science. The Big Ideas are generalizable ─ able to unify a wide range of scientific facts. Teaching every concept in the context of some larger Big Idea provides coherence across the science curriculum.

*Cover designed by Chris Byrne.*