

Career Girls: Why Choose STEM

Lesson Topic:

STEM Careers

Lesson Objective:

To help students explore reasons to consider a career in science, technology, engineering or math (STEM).

Warm-up Activity:

1. Ask students to tell what they know about the acronym "STEM."
2. Create a STEM CAREERS chart on whiteboard or a piece of chart pad paper. Title your chart " All About STEM CAREERS." Divide the rest of the display into four columns. Label the columns left to right as follows: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.
3. For each column, have students list careers that fall under that column's heading.
4. After researching the STEM careers listed, have students take turns describing these careers and telling why they are desirable career choices.
5. As students learn more about STEM careers, have them add more careers to your chart.

View the Video: "Why Choose STEM"

1. Preview the video before sharing it with your students.
2. Tell students they will be watching the video titled, "Why Choose STEM."
3. Explain that the video presents role models talking about why STEM careers are ones girls should consider going into.

4. Point out that each of the role models in the video works in a STEM career
5. Tell students that, as they view the video, they should listen for reasons the role models believe that girls should consider STEM careers.
6. View the video together.
7. View the video again; this time, invite students to formulate questions or comments about the career advantages discussed in the video and to be prepared to discuss these after viewing the video.
8. Refer to your original chart as you have students tell about the types of STEM careers they think they might enjoy learning more about and why.

Video Follow-up:

1. Ask students to discuss or write about their video-related questions, comments, reactions and responses.
2. Invite students to note specific things they learned about the value of STEM careers and to reflect upon their observations. (E.g., "I like that a STEM career means I can have an interesting profession that pays well.")
3. Encourage students to edit any written work so it can be shared with classmates.
4. Use student writings as a springboard to further discussion.

Extension Activity:

Have students read biographies and autobiographies of women pioneers in STEM careers.

Related Questions to Explore:

Use the list of questions below to help students learn more about STEM careers and why they should consider preparing for a STEM career of their choice.

- Why are there fewer women than men in STEM careers? How is it possible to change that trend? Why is it important to change that trend?
- What basic skills are important to develop in preparation for any of the STEM careers?
- Why is math often an important part of a STEM career? Are there STEM careers that don't depend on strong math skills?
- Why do STEM careers pay well? Is a good salary enough of a reason to pursue a STEM career?
- Besides exploring the Career Girls website, what are some other ways you can learn more about STEM career possibilities you might enjoy and be good at?