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**LIFE COACH**

## Is a STEM career right for you?

**Get paid to change the world.**

There is a whole lot of money in STEM careers related to science, technology, engineering and math, and for good reason. These careers are in high demand because they solve the world's most difficult problems and need to be well before they're even invented.

Readers learn why your family should choose to pursue a STEM career. They see how much money you could make, and which degrees are required to work in some of the hottest STEM careers.

**Why do you choose a STEM career?**  
 Jennifer: I've always been interested in how the world works, especially things you can't see with the naked eye. What really drew me to STEM is the opportunity to conduct research that can help solve some of the world's most pressing problems. I also love the challenge of learning and trying to figure out how things work. It's a lot of fun!

**What's the highest-paying STEM career?**  
 Jennifer: That's a tough question to answer. It varies a lot depending on the field. Some of the highest-paying STEM careers include software development, data science, and engineering. I think the key is to find a career that interests you and that you're good at.

**How can you help with your career?**  
 Jennifer: It's important to stay motivated and keep learning. There are many online courses and resources available. It's also important to network with people in the field. For example, you could join a professional organization or attend conferences. Don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it.

**What is a research career like?**  
 Jennifer: It's a lot of fun, but it can be challenging. You need to be able to work independently and solve problems. It's also important to have a good understanding of the field you're interested in. You'll need to read a lot of books and articles, and you'll need to stay up-to-date on the latest research. It's a lot of work, but it's also a lot of fun.

**What's the most interesting STEM career?**  
 Jennifer: I think it's hard to pick just one. There are so many interesting STEM careers out there. I'm interested in data science, software development, and engineering. I think the key is to find a career that interests you and that you're good at.

**How can you get started in a STEM career?**  
 Jennifer: The first step is to get a good education. You'll need to take math and science classes in high school and college. It's also important to get some hands-on experience. You could try to get a job in a STEM field or take some internships. Don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it.

**What's the most important thing to remember?**  
 Jennifer: The most important thing is to stay motivated and keep learning. There are always new things to learn in STEM. It's a lot of work, but it's also a lot of fun.

STEM Field	Annual Salary	Requirements
Software Developer	\$100,000	Bachelor's in computer science
Mathematician	\$100,000	Master's in mathematics
Research Scientist	\$90,000	PhD in a STEM field
Engineer	\$85,000	Bachelor's in engineering
Systems Analyst	\$85,000	Master's in computer science

Florida Trend's Career Center

**LIFE: ACTIVITY 1**

# Is a STEM career right for you? Activity

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. TEACHER: Divide class into pairs (2) on each team.
2. TEACHER: *The article discusses STEM as it relates to one student who is pursuing a STEM career. There are many careers that are associated with Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Today we will look at the top STEM occupations. Not only will this give us knowledge of why STEM is so important today, but it will give each of us an opportunity to think about, if not decide on pursuing such a career.*
3. TEACHER: Hand out the list of STEM related jobs to each team. This hand-out includes the assignment. Each team should choose one occupation. Ask each team their choice to make certain there are no duplicates.

### Teacher Needs

- Laptop/desktop
- NEXT magazine article "Is a STEM career right for you?" on page 46
- Printer access
- Print hand-out (attached)
- Poster board and markers for each team

### Student Needs

- Laptop/desktop
- Printer access
- Internet access
- Poster board/markers

### Florida State Standards

LAFS.1112.W.2.4  
 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

LAFS.1112.W.2.6  
 Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or share writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments and information.

LAFS.1112.RI.2.4  
 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze how an author uses and refines the meaning of a key term or terms over the course of the text

**LIFE: ACTIVITY 1**

**STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Occupations Activity**

GEOGRAPHER	FINANCIAL MANAGER	CIVIL ENGINEER	WEB DEVELOPER	MATHEMATICIAN
BIOMEDICAL ENGINEER	MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES MANAGER	ELECTRICAL ENGINEER	INDUSTRIAL PSYCHOLOGIST	FORENSIC SCIENCE TECHNICIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER	ACCOUNTANT	SOFTWARE DEVELOPER	IT ADMINISTRATOR	BIOCHEMIST

**DIRECTIONS**

1. Each team will choose one of the careers listed above to research.
2. You will create a poster board presentation in the format shown below. The teacher will give you the poster board and markers to use. You can use pictures from websites offering free stock pictures (this will avoid copyright issues).
3. Each of the sections on your poster board will include the information outlined below. Be creative, unique, colorful.
4. Proof your work. When all work is complete, have teacher review and display in the classroom

<b>CAREER TITLE</b> Definition (What is this job, exactly?)	<b>EDUCATION REQUIRED</b> (Include 2 or 3 Florida colleges/ universities that offer this major/ minor.)	<b>EXPECTED JOB OPENINGS IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS</b> · Expected Average Salary · Where in the U.S. is the most demand for this career?
<b>INDUSTRIES</b> (2) that have a need for this career. Name the company and its location. (If available find the openings for this career at the companies chosen.)	<b>YOU</b> · What interested you most about this career? · Would you pursue this career? · Did you find any drawbacks?	<b>TEAMMATE</b> · What interested you most about this career? · Would you pursue this career? · Did you find any drawbacks?