

Interview Questions To Ask STEM Professionals



Worksheets to guide a conversation
with a person in a STEM career.

THANK YOU!

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ABOUT VIVIFY

Vivify is a team comprised of two Aerospace Engineer friends, Natasha and Claire, who live in Texas. We met as college classmates and roommates at Texas A&M University and later left engineering careers in the Department of Defense and Air Tractor to pursue our passion for STEM education. Learn more of our story [here](#).

Our goal is to bring engineering to life—to vivify learning—for kids of all ages. Please connect with us so we can learn how to better serve your students!

- Natasha & Claire, The Vivify Team



Connect with us for free STEM resources!

Subscribe to our newsletter and receive access to a library of [free](#) STEM resources through www.vivifysystem.com. Follow us on social media or listen to “The STEM Space” podcast for more resources and ideas. We also welcome you to join [“The STEM Space”](#) Facebook group to connect with other educators across the world.



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WANT MORE STEM?

For a complete list of all of Vivify STEM resources broken down by standards, topics, and grade levels, go here: <http://bit.ly/VivifyResourceGuide>



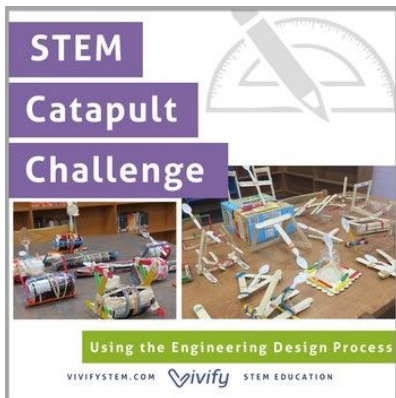
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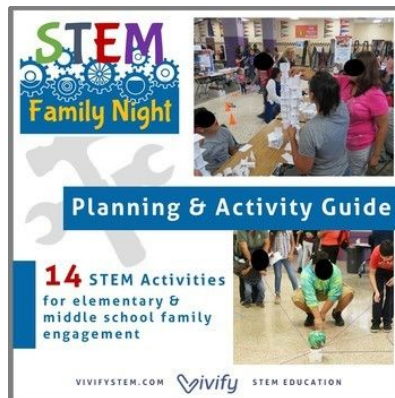
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Vivify's Overview of STEM Education

Successful STEM education is an empowering interdisciplinary approach that brings math and science concepts to life through problems that mimic the complexities and excitement of the real world. STEM revolves around the Engineering Design Process that embraces failure, relies on teamwork, and requires critical thinking and creativity. While exciting, educators often become intimidated as a search for curriculum leads to an overwhelming range of activities from index towers to robotics competitions. At Vivify, we believe that not all STEM is created equal. Educators should adopt a [3 Stages of STEM](#) approach by progressively building towards more complex projects.

To learn more about the 3 Stages of STEM, go here: <http://bit.ly/stemstages>

Encourage your students to connect with a S.T.E.M. professional!

A career in science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) seems daunting and unattainable to many students. He or she may be passionate about science or engineering, but many students don't end up pursuing a career because of a lack of direction or confidence in abilities. This is where connecting with a STEM professional is an invaluable opportunity to maintain interest and get direction in how to accomplish educational and career goals. STEM professionals can improve self-confidence by breaking down stereotypes and making a career more relatable to the student.

However, starting a conversation with a STEM professional can seem difficult to students who are embarrassed about questions to ask or shy about approaching a professional. In reality, there are many STEM professionals who would love to speak to a students and share their experience and passion.

In hopes of encouraging more students to reach out, the following pages include questions intended to guide a student through a conversation that will help him or her understand more about the professional's career and what it takes to get there.

Suggestions in using this packet:

1. Provide examples of jobs in STEM fields (eg. engineer, scientist, accountant, doctor, etc.). A large list of STEM. careers and associated information may be found at <http://www.iseek.org/careers/viewCareers?id=15>
2. Assign your students the task of contacting a professional in a S.T.E.M. field to answer the interview questions in this packet. Students may benefit best from meeting in person to have a face-to-face conversation and establish a relationship that could turn into a long term mentorship. Sending the questions to the professional in advance may be helpful as well.
3. After completing the assignment, have each student give a brief report to the class summarizing what they learned. To take it a step further, have the students create a poster detailing key points of the conversation and additional research done by the student about the S.T.E.M. profession, college degree(s) needed and other related information. These posters would make for a great display for a school S.T.E.M. night or open house!



Student Name: _____

STEM Professional Name: _____ Occupation: _____

1. Why do you do what you do?
2. Is this where you thought you would be when you were my age?
3. How do you spend most of your time?
4. Who has influenced you the most?
5. In your career, do you work with other people? How?
6. What would you do differently if you were to start over at my age?

7. What technology do you use for your job?

8. What struggles did you face in getting where you are now?

9. What are you most proud of?

10. What do you recommend I do to meet my goals?

11. What are some books I should read and why?

12. What can I do with your degree and/or experience?

13. May I follow up with you in the future if I have more questions?

If yes, how may I contact you?