Is your child interested in pursuing a STEM career?

STEM, a term used to group together the academic disciplines of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, is a continuously evolving sector with numerous job opportunities from entry level to senior roles.

The demand for STEM skills is growing. Studying STEM subjects can lead to a huge range of exciting career opportunities, equipping your child with important skills, to support many of the great challenges facing society today. From manufacturing an electric car to inventing a new hi-tech health scanner there are thousands of exciting and well-paid opportunities.

STEM is involved in virtually every aspect of life. It involves careers such as:

Science: Doctors, Nurses, Dentist, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and other science professionals.

Technology: Web and Software Developers, Graphic Designers, Fintech, Software Testers

Engineering: Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Agricultural Engineering

Mathematics: Financial Analyst, Research Analyst, Economics, Auditor, Statistician

https://www.stem.org.uk/secondary/careers

STEM Careers: Inspire the Next Generation of Innovators

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZvU_FASw7E

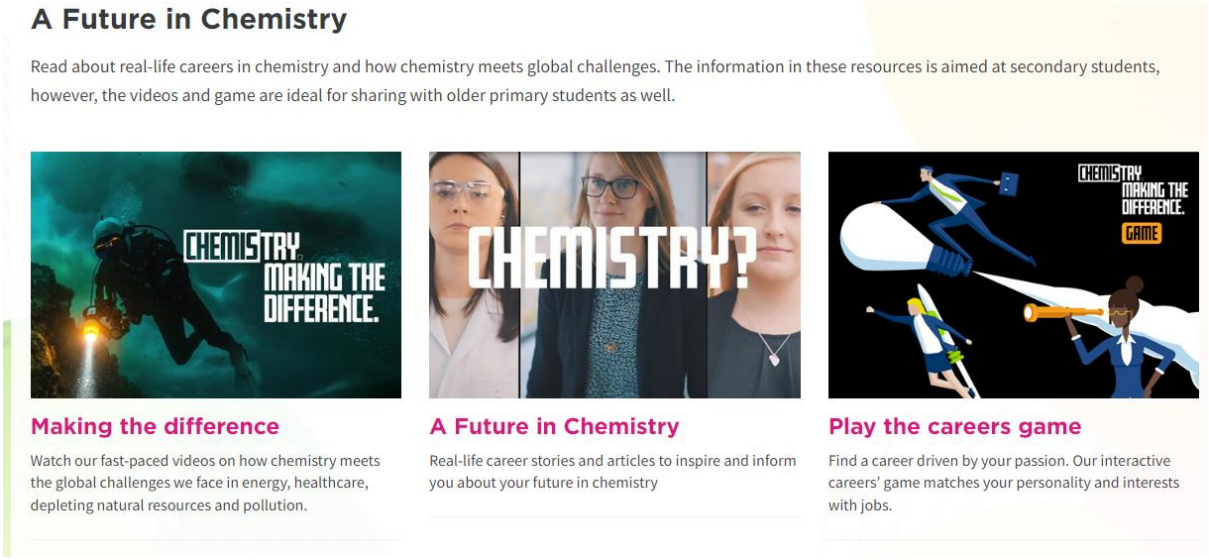
A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME

Introducing children to a diverse range of scientists and people who work in science-related jobs

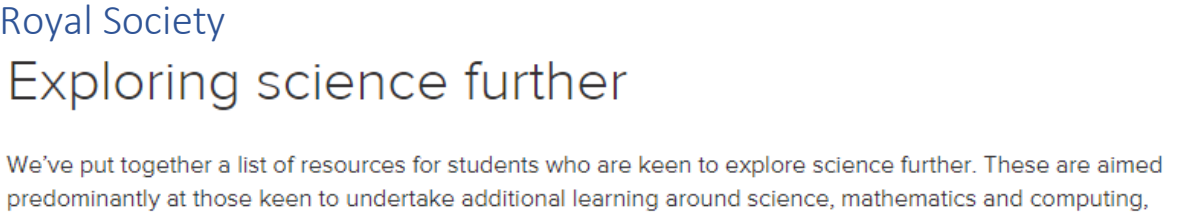
A Scientist Just Like Me is designed to raise awareness of diversity in science-related jobs and to provide illustrated examples of a wide range of science-based careers. It consists of a series of short slideshows, each one 'telling the story' of a particular scientist or person working in a science-related job. The people included share details of their work and their everyday lives, making their stories relatable to children. They describe their job, what they like about it, and the challenges they have faced on their career journeys.

The resources focus on the skills, attitudes and habits that are needed to carry out the work, rather than on any expert knowledge, which may be daunting or seem out of reach to children. At the end of each slideshow, the children are encouraged to imagine and discuss what it might be like to do that job.

https://pstt.org.uk/resources/curriculum-materials/ASJLM



https://edu.rsc.org/primary-science/find-resources/meet-the-scientists



https://royalsociety.org/topics-policy/education-skills/teacher-resources-and-opportunities/resources-for-teachers/science-at-home/extended-learning/

The Primary Careers Tool is a database of over 100 STEM careers sorted by National Curriculum topic in Science. By clicking on the topic a selection of careers will be randomly presented.
https://nustem.uk/primarycareers/#tab-id-2

Each career includes a simple explanation of the job, a link that searches for counter-stereotypical images of that type of STEM worker and three attributes that are needed by people who do that job. It doesn't take long to put this information into presentation slide (see right) that can be used in a science lesson. The slide enables discussions about the career, by asking the children if they could do that career and whether they share any of the attributes. The counter-stereotypical images also let the teacher challenge current stereotypes held in the class.

Using the Primary Careers Tool allows teachers to find out about careers that may be new to them, and introduce those careers simply in their lessons. Over time, children will come to realise that studying science opens up a whole world of possibilities to them.

Job title matched to the National Curriculum science topic.

STEM Career: Geologist

Age-appropriate explanation about the career.

Counter-stereotypical image that helps develop understanding of the career.

Dr Kate Winter, Polar Geologist

Geologists work to understand the history of our planet so they can predict how events and processes of the past might influence the future. Geologists seek to understand the processes of landslides, earthquakes, floods, and volcanic eruptions well enough to avoid building important structures where they might be damaged. They prepare maps of areas that have flooded in the past in order to prepare maps of areas that might be flooded in the future.

Attributes: observant, curious and creative

Discussion question to allow the class to think about the career in greater depth.

Could you be a geologist?

Three attributes of a person in this STEM career that the children might share.