Attracting Girls to STEM by Integrating Social Studies and Mathematics

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Jill Drake and Janet Strickland NCTM 2016 San Francisco, CA



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What we are learning from gender research?



- Interests form at an early age and remain fundamentally stable from age 12 to age 40 for both females and males (Low, Yoon, Roberts, & Rounds, 2005).
- Gender disparities in interest in STEM fields can be seen as early as elementary school (Hill, Corbett, Rose, et al., 2010).
- Females with high math aptitude are less interested in math-intensive careers than males with comparable aptitude (Lubinski & Benbow, 2006).
- Among males and females of comparably outstanding mathematical aptitude, females are more likely to also have outstanding verbal ability giving them greater career options. (Park et al., 2008).
- Women have been found to prefer people-oriented careers over things-oriented careers and these preferences may contribute to the underrepresentation of women in STEM fields. (Su, Rounds, & Armstrong, 2009). <u>The Lemonade War Book Give-Away</u>
- Females tend to have more Artistic, Social, and Conventional interests (Su, Rounds, & Armstrong, 2009).
- Females' perceptions that work in STEM fields is solitary (versus collaborative) and competitive (versus cooperative) work appears to mediate the relationship between their field-specific ability beliefs and female representation in STEM fields (Meyer, Cimpian, & Jane Leslie, 2015).

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The integration of social studies and mathematics education at the elementary school level is a wellsuited approach to combat girls' lack of interest in **STEM** careers.



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Five Strategies for Integration and Increased Interest in STEM

- Debunk STEM stereotypes and misconceptions through studying diverse, women role models (past and present).
- Illustrate the social and artistic aspects of STEM fields through literature and interdisciplinary learning tools and activities.
- Highlight STEM careers that are contribute students' historical, geographical, civic, and economic understandings of our society.
- Reinforce the role of collaboration in STEM fields through engagement in engineering design task centered on social justice issues.
- Engage students in writing across the curriculum.





Debunk STEM stereotypes and misconceptions through studying women role models (past and present) <u>Book Give-Away</u>





Ada Lovelace -**Ada, Countess of Lovelace** (née **Byron**; 10 December 1815 – 27 November 1852) was an English <u>mathematician</u> and writer, chiefly known for her work on <u>Charles</u> <u>Babbage</u>'s early mechanical general-purpose computer, the <u>Analytical Engine</u>. Her notes on the engine include what is recognized as the first <u>algorithm</u> intended to be carried out by a machine. As a result, she is often regarded as the first computer programmer.

Annie J. Easley (April 23, 1933 – June 25, 2011) was an <u>African-American</u> computer scientist, mathematician, and rocket scientist.^[1] She worked for the <u>Lewis Research Center</u> of the <u>National Aeronautics and Space Administration</u> (NASA) and its predecessor, the <u>National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics</u> (NACA). She was a leading member of the team which developed software for the <u>Centaur</u> rocket stage and one of the first African-Americans in her field.



Resource for learning about Women in STEM http://staging.forgirlsinscience.org/women-in-stem/



Illustrate the social and artistic aspects of STEM disciplines through literature and interdisciplinary learning tools and activities.

<u>Coding Lesson with Jewelry</u>

Letter	Binary		Letter	Binary	
Α			Ν		
В			0		
С			Ρ		
D			Q		
E			R		
F			S		
G			Т		
Н			U		
			V		
J			W		
K			Х		
L			Y		
М			Ζ		

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http://www.nativetech.org/games/index.php

Wampum Belt (Addition, Subtraction, Fractions, Percentages)





West Georgia.







Math and Art



Evolution of Calpernia Tate



University of West Georgia student Adviey Cochran plays Booman Service Cochran Wate Maxaem Program Tanckaya at Control Elementary Second Linker Under of the Wate Maxaem Program Tanckaya at Control Elementary Second Linker Under of the mich Central students could visit and learns. (In Steedy who way in Charge of the event, said the UVG students had to memorize a script for their characters to receite the Heidd, Tancing and the Control Heidd Second Second Linker Second Linker Eleming experiment that offer off in the social studies methods course and readling methods course at UVG. One of the facilitators, Mary Reidd, said It was a great learning experiment that offerent the social students.



STEM Women

Aims

- I. Make women in STEM more visible to the public, with a special focus on women scientists on Google+
- 2. Promote careers for women in STEM
- 3. Highlight issues of gender inequality
- 4. Address solutions to improve women's participation, inclusion, leadership and recognition in STEM





Highlight STEM careers that and contribute students' historical, geographical, civic, and economic understandings of societies.

Resource: 21 Seriously Cool Career that Need Mathematics

- <u>http://startingwright.cs.wright.edu/Teacher/ingut/21-seriously-cool-careers.pdf</u> Resource: Culturally Situated Design Tools
- <u>http://csdt.rpi.edu/</u>







Reinforce the role of collaboration in STEM fields through engagement in engineering design task and math lessons centered on social justice issues.

Social studies and history set the context for engineering challenges.



http://www.radicalmath.org/











Engage students in reading and writing across the curriculum.

- ReadWorks.org ReadWorks is a leading national non-profit organization that provides FREE, research-based, and Common Core-aligned reading comprehension curriculum. The ReadWorks curriculum is based on the most highly regarded, proven research on reading instruction, and includes:
- Informational and literary passages and question sets for grades K-12
- Skill and Strategy lesson units for grades K-4
- Comprehension units for grades K-5
- Novel study units for grades 5-6





Other resources

Women in STEM Publications

- White House Fact Sheet: <u>Women and Girls and Science, Technology, Engineering</u>, <u>and Mathematics</u>
- White House Fact Sheet: <u>STEM Depiction Opportunities</u>
- US Department of Commerce: <u>Women in STEM: A Gender Gap to Innovation</u>
- New York Times: <u>Why Are There Still So Few Women in Science?</u>
- New York Times: <u>How Elementary School Teachers' Biases Can Discourage Girls</u> <u>from Math</u>





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