

Starters for STEM are 10 activities that parents can use at home to help children develop their science, technology, engineering and maths skills. These activities are easy to resource and provide children with the stimulus to talk about the world around them. If you see a link you can explore how to extend these activities, you will need to sign up, for free, to access these materials. Don't forget to share your work on social media

#ScienceFromHome

Make a rain gauge

Get some help to make a rain gauge from a plastic bottle

<https://www.science-sparks.com/weather-make-a-rain-gauge/>

Making sound shakers

Collect some different containers with lids, make sure you cannot see through them. The small plastic containers from inside chocolate eggs work really well. Put different materials in the containers. (Stones, rice, sugar, paper clips etc.) How many shakers can you make? Do they all sound the same? Can you make a shaker that is difficult to recognise? Can you make loud and quiet sounds with them?

For more ideas take a look at the full resources: <https://bit.ly/3berawB>

Fruit Solar System

Find out the relative size of the Sun and each planet and match it to the different kinds of fruit listed in the activity below. Then create your own model of our solar system using fruit. You can choose different fruit or other similar sized objects, if you don't have all of the fruit at home.

<https://www.stem.org.uk/rxyx3>

Stages of Life

Did you know that childhood is a stage in the life cycle of a human? What other stages are there in the human life cycle? Draw a picture of the stages and label them. Can you name some things that a human is able to do at each stage?

Who was Mary Anning?

Research who Mary Anning was and why her finds were so important. Once you've found out all about her, can you teach someone else? Maybe make a fact file, a PowerPoint or use drama like here:

<https://bit.ly/2BL0o26>

Terrific Teeth

Take a look in your mouth, you need to use a small mirror to do this. Can you find 3 different shapes of teeth? Draw a picture of your mouth and show where the different types of teeth are. Why do you think they are shaped differently? What does each type do?

<https://www.stem.org.uk/rxespz>

Spot the plant

Use The Great Plant Hunt identikit to see if you have any of the plants listed in your local area. Can you observe one of the plants carefully and sketch it?

<https://www.stem.org.uk/rx33hu>

Types of materials

Objects are made out of different materials because their properties are most suited for the job the object does.

Watch this video to understand a bit more:

<https://bbc.in/3iboiUV>

Now look in your house. Find an object and decide what material it is. Why has that material been used?

Mission X – Astro food

Collect a variety of plant foods from home or download the cards from this resource: <https://bit.ly/3aa2Ryr>

Group the food/cards e.g. fruits, seeds, vegetables.

Please be quiet!

Find something that makes a loud noise, like an alarm clock, or a noisy toy. Set it down at one end of a room and walk a few steps away. Does it sound as loud? Continue walking and stopping to listen to the sound. What happens to the sound the further you walk? Can you think of a way of making the sound quieter?

<https://www.stem.org.uk/rxzb9>