STEM Exploration: 3rd-5th Grade

A RIF Guide for Educators

Themes: Science, Technology, Engineering, Math

Book Brief: This guide is designed for use with books about STEM exploration at the 3rd-5th Grade reading level. Adapt the questions and activities in this guide to the book you are reading.

Content Connections: ELA, Science, Math

Time To Read!

Before we read, let's look at...

The Cover: Based on the cover, including the title and any illustrations, what is this book about? What STEM topics might this book cover?

Prior Knowledge: What do the letters in "STEM" stand for? What are some common STEM fields or careers? How is STEM useful in daily life?

Vocabulary: Identify 8-10 words that are likely to be new to your students and introduce them before you read this book with your class.

Purpose for Reading: It's important to be able to make connections between ideas and concepts in a text. As we read, think about how science, technology, engineering, and math are connected.

While We Read

Monitoring Comprehension

- What is the main idea? Name some key details that support the main idea.
- Choose one STEM procedure, idea, or concept from the book and explain it in your own words, using information from the text.
- Look for text features like keywords, glossaries, tables of contents, and sidebars. How can using these text features help you to understand the text?
- Find a chart, graph, diagram, or other visual in the text. Explain how this visual helps you to understand what the text is saying.
- Compare and contrast two STEM procedures, ideas, or concepts from the book.

Let's Think About

Our Purpose: According to this book, how are science, technology, engineering, and math related?

Extending Our Thinking: As a group or as individuals, define a real-world problem that the concepts in this book could help solve. Write a paragraph explaining what the problem is, naming the relevant concepts from the book, and describing how those concepts could be used to solve the problem. Reflect with students on how solving this problem could make daily life easier.