

# the Daily STEM

Volume 2 Issue 4

September 29, 2019

## STEM in the News

Do you have a dog? Would you want to have a robot dog? Would you just want a robot dog that does tricks?

Boston Dynamics has been building and testing a robot that looks and acts like a dog. They even named it Spot. But their goal is to have Spot do more than just tricks.



"Early customers are already testing Spot to monitor construction sites, provide remote inspection at gas, oil and power installations, and in public safety," says Boston Dynamics.

The robot can even open doors or pick up items. What other tasks would be good for this robot? To learn more: [cnet.co/2nTiz9X](http://cnet.co/2nTiz9X)

## STEM Challenge

Making paper airplanes is fun. Making paper airplanes that fly the furthest is a challenge. But have you ever tried to make a paper airplane that flies a specific distance?

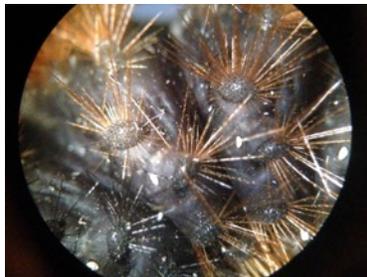
For instance, put a piece of tape on the ground and then measure 25 feet and put another piece of tape.

Now try creating a paper airplane that goes exactly 25 feet. What did you have to adjust? Does it always fly exactly 25 feet? Why not?



## Mystery Photo

What's under the microscope?  
(answer next week)



Last week's answer:  
sandpaper

## STEM + Food

Did you ever stop and think about what happens to the pizza crust you don't eat or the last few bites of your hamburger you're too full to eat? It probably just ended up in the garbage. Every year 1.3 billion tons of food gets wasted in the world. In North America, 58% of total food loss happens at the consumption stage (where it's eaten) and only 6% is lost during storage and handling. But in sub-Saharan Africa, just 6% of total food loss occurs at the consumption phase and 36% is lost during storage. That means there are problems, but some people are already thinking of solutions. Food companies are trying to reduce waste in their factories. Farmers are letting people harvest imperfect food to give to local food banks. What are some ways to keep food from being wasted?

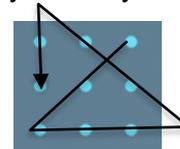


To learn more: [la.tms/2ZCAQyh](http://la.tms/2ZCAQyh)

## The Puzzle

The day before yesterday I was 10, and next year I will be 13. When is my birthday?

Last week's answer:



## Incredible Invention

Have you ever been using your phone or tablet and the battery went dead? People try to think of creative ways to recharge devices. The easiest way is to plug it into a wall outlet or a backup battery. But at a train station in The Netherlands you can charge your phone by swinging.

When you sit on the swing and glide back and forth, a built in generator charges your device. Can you imagine some other ways to use human movement to charge devices?



Watch a video at [bit.ly/2mckURT](http://bit.ly/2mckURT)