

the Daily STEM

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STEM in the News

Auto companies are always trying to make their cars and trucks better. Better quality, better price, better innovations. The Rivian company, with backing from Ford and Amazon, has started designing electric vehicles. A car with an electric motor instead of a gasoline engine can be designed much differently. Rivian has a motor controlling each wheel. That means they can turn some wheels forward and some wheels backwards at the same time. This allows the truck to turn 360° like a tank. Other innovations include lots of storage space (because there's no gas engine taking up space) and a tailgate that folds down twice. How would you design a truck?



To learn more: bit.ly/2QINTie or rivian.com

STEM Challenge

Christmas and other holidays just finished. But don't put away that wrapping paper yet. Check and see if your paper has lines on the back (for making straight cuts). If so, use it as giant graph paper! What can you do with giant graph paper? Try keeping track of how something changes over time (like height of a plant, outside temperature, the calories you ate, or how many waterbottles you fill). And because it's big paper, you can post it in a hallway so everyone can see it and keep track for a long time, maybe even til the end of the school year!



Mystery Photos

What's under the microscope?
(answer in next issue)
Last issue's answers:
Light bulb, wrapping paper, xBox disc, pine tree



STEM + Flowers

The largest flower ever measured was recently found in the jungles of Indonesia. This flower, a rafflesia, was measured to be 111 cm or 3.6 ft across. It even grows without roots or leaves. How does it survive? It acts as a parasite, it grows on another plant and feeds on its nutrients and water. The flower only lasts about 1 week before it rots.

Another interesting Fact about the bloom? It is sometimes called the "corpse flower" because it smells similar to rotting meat.



This allows the plant to attract insects to pollinate it. What is the largest flower you've seen? Do you know of any other parasites? To learn more: cnn.it/36sKDXW

The Puzzle

Have you tried a magic square? They're puzzles where you have to put the numbers 1-9 into the boxes so that each row, column, and diagonal add up to the same amount. Can you solve these?

Add to 15

3		
	9	2

Last week's answer:
A cat costs \$16 (based on the number of legs)

Add to 18

	6	
5		2

The CES Show

Each year, Las Vegas hosts the Consumer Electronics Show (CES). This year CES takes place January 7-11. It's a time for companies to show off the new gadgets and technology. Some ideas are improvements on other products, like roll-up TVs. Others are completely new inventions, like a walking car or a sensor that tells you when to change a baby's diaper. What would you like to invent? Follow all the latest in 2020: cnet.com/ces/
Check out the best from 2019: cnet.co/2QJVTIW

