

the Daily STEM

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STEM + Pets

Do you have a pet? Did you ever wonder what they do all day at home? No, they don't have a secret life where they talk to other animals. But did you ever wonder if they get bored or scared? Animal psychologists have worked with Spotify to make music playlists and podcasts for your pets. The app selects songs that the owner likes to play, songs that the pet would be used to hearing. The podcast includes "reassuring human voices, relaxing music and ambient sounds, including rain." What other things could you do to help pets be happy while no one is home? To learn more: cnn.it/2TVBmEn

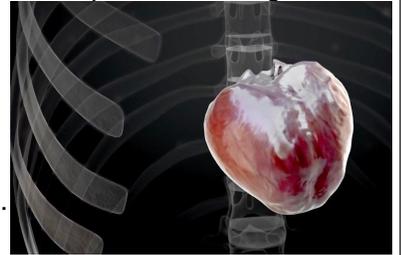


STEM in the News

When we think of robots, we usually imagine metal creatures that walk and talk with a funny voice. But robots are any machine that can do a task on its own. For example, researchers in Europe are working to make a robotic heart

using soft robotic muscles covered with a patient's own cells. They could even be powered wirelessly through the skin.

Many people have heart problems that can't be fixed. They need a replacement heart. Some are given donated hearts from people who have passed away, but there aren't enough. These robotic hearts could save many more lives. Do you know of any other types of body parts can get replaced? To learn more: bit.ly/2TWLzQM



STEM Challenge

Valentine's Day is coming soon. Don't wait until the last minute and buy something for your friends and family. When you make something for someone, you show them you cared enough to use your time to brighten their day. Here's a few ideas:

♥ Plant some flower seeds in a coffee mug. If you plant them now, they should be sprouting and growing by February 14. Plus, the coffee mug is a bonus after the flowers are done.



♥ Cut a bunch of hearts out of paper or fabric, glue them on a piece of cardstock or cardboard, and put it in a frame

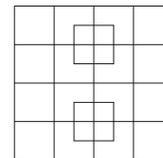
♥ Take apart an Oreo, put a popsicle stick in it, "glue" it back together with some melted chocolate, dip it in chocolate, then wrap it up in some plastic wrap

♥ Find some red or pink paper and try to make some Origami hearts

The Puzzle

What two letters come next? ST ND RD ___

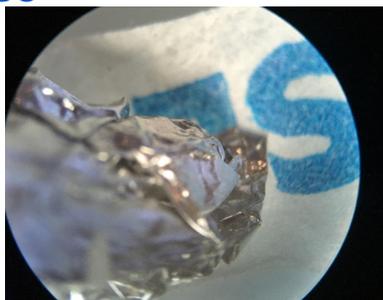
Last week's answer:
There were 40 squares



Mystery Photo

What's under the microscope?
(answer in next issue)

Last issue's answers:
A hotel key card



How-To

Have you ever heard the word Algorithm? It's a fancy word that means a set of steps or directions to do something. Usually it gets used to talk about the process to do some math (like how to do long division) or the steps of a computer program (like coding). But it's just the order of how to do something, like following a recipe or LEGO instruction booklet. People with STEM jobs write and use algorithms for the things they do, from designing a part to making sure a rocket launch is successful. Try writing an algorithm for making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, then have someone follow your steps exactly. Be prepared to laugh!

