

The Daily STEM

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STEM in the News

Mt Everest is the highest mountain in the world. It's located on the China and Nepal border. Each year hundreds of people climb to the top using special equipment. But how do you measure the height of a mountain? Scientists are installing GPS equipment to get a more accurate height of the mountain. In the past, China has measured it to be 8,844.43 (excluding the snow cap) and Nepal measured 8,848m (including the snow cap). Plus, a 2015 earthquake might have caused some snow to break off, making the height lower. Why do you think accurate measurements are important?



Learn more: bbc.in/30pdqVX

STEM + Electric Trucks

Some people have trucks in order to move or haul things around. Businesses use trucks for delivery of bigger items. But one problem with trucks is their lower gas mileage. A new company, Lordstown Motors, has designed an all-electric truck. Instead of many moving parts in the engine and transmission, there are only 4 small electric motors, 1 at each wheel. Software controls each motor to keep it from slipping in water or mud. And with no engine, they added a "trunk" up front for storage! What other benefits can you imagine for an electric truck? Learn more: bit.ly/2UicUfW



STEM Challenge

Have you ever made a paper airplane? You probably folded paper, threw it, and watched it fly. But did you ever imagine making your own plane? You might have heard of the Wright brothers who were the first to fly their own plane, but Emma Lilian Todd also built her own plane just a few years later. As a child, she liked taking clocks apart to see how they worked. When she was older, she got a job typing patents for inventors.

She saw many good ideas, but knew she could make something better. She even looked to nature to find ideas to make a plane. Despite her many failures, she eventually built a plane that flew! What can you invent or make better? Look up some information about Emma Lilian Todd

or learn about her in a new book called *Wood, Wire, Wings* by Kirsten W Larson bit.ly/379294E



STEM Careers

Have you ever seen a drone? They are usually flown using a remote control. Drones are fun for seeing what Earth looks like from the sky. People are finding ways to use them in all types of careers. Farmers use drones to look at their crops. Realtors use them to take pictures of houses for sale. They can even be used to deliver packages or supplies. In Rwanda, a company named Zipline is using drones to deliver blood to remote hospitals. Because roads are very bad, the drone delivery system is helping doctors save patients' lives. Learn more: bit.ly/2Y8wtIw



The Puzzle

There are 3 ants. Each one is sitting at a corner of a triangle. Each ant picks one direction at random and starts walking. What is the probability that none of the ants collide? (from Mathigon.org)

Last week's answer: The message was written using Naval signal flags, and it said "Navy flags"

Mystery Photo

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

Last issue's answer:
A moth, a ping pong paddle,
and a Nerf dart

