

The Daily STEM

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STEM in the News

Have you ever eaten dried fruit? Bananas, grapes, cranberries, apricots, and more are often dried and eaten as a yummy snack. Drying the fruit prevents it from rotting. But the use of heat to dry the fruit can also destroy the nutrients. A team of scientists has found a way to dry fruit using electricity. "Ionic Wind" uses electric current sent through metal to create charged particles, or ions, in the air. These ions create wind that can dry the fruit quickly without heat. They even reduced electricity use by 85% by putting the fruit on a wire mesh instead of solid metal trays. Do you think this will make dried fruit a more common snack? Learn more: bit.ly/3cBRoen



STEM Challenge

Did you ever plant some seeds? It may take only a few minutes to plant them, but it takes days for them to sprout, and then weeks for them to produce flowers or something yummy to eat. One simple way to make planting seeds fun is to plant them in a clear water bottle. Start by cutting off the top, put in some dirt, and get the soil wet. When you put in a seed or two, place them on the side of the clear "pot." That way, you'll be able to see the seed sprout, the roots form, and the plant grow! Need more help or ideas?

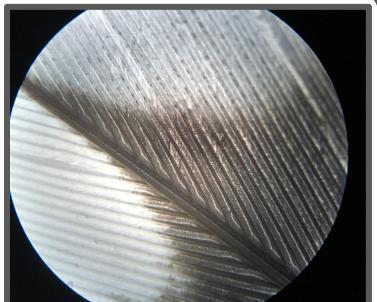
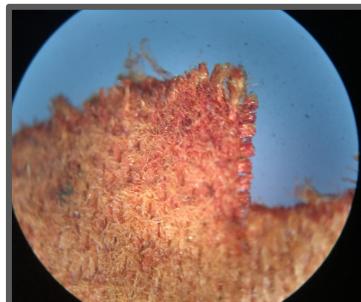
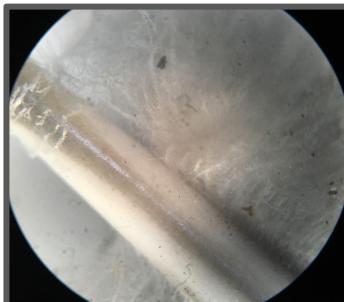
Watch these instructions: youtu.be/fydDE_pJrug



Mystery Photos

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

Last issue's answer:
A dried cranberry, Life cereal,
the threads on a water bottle



STEM + The Ocean

If you have a Roomba that cleans your floor, the ocean has boats that work like roombas. Right now, two robotic ships are scanning the ocean floor near southern California. They're looking for barrels of DDT. DDT was a chemical used to protect crops and stop malaria until it was banned in 1972. Eventually they hope to retrieve the dangerous barrels. Learn more: bit.ly/3bQ57ik



STEM Careers

Do you know who Ellen Ochoa is? In 1993, she became the first Hispanic woman to fly in space! She later traveled three more times to space, including the first mission to dock at the International Space Station.



"If you are motivated to excel in one area, you are usually motivated to excel in others. NASA looks for that," says Ellen. She was also an accomplished flute player, and even played her flute in space. Her leadership skills allowed her to take on many roles at NASA, including Deputy Director of the Johnson Space Center. "In our household there was a big emphasis on education. My mom expected us to work hard and do well." Learn more: bit.ly/3eJwCvU

Learn even more: bit.ly/3qOjYtO

The Puzzle

What are the next 4 letters in the following:

O, T, T, F, F, S, __, __, __, __

Last issue's answer: Both squares had the same amount of pie.