

The Daily STEM

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STEM in the News

Did you ever visit an indoor stadium for a sporting event? If so, you most likely saw the athletes playing on artificial grass. But did you ever wonder what they use for dirt? Most fields use recycled tires ground up into very small pieces. However, Tropicana Field in Tampa, FL just changed their field to a new material. The first things fans notice this season is a striped field to look more like it has been mowed. But the real innovation is the dirt. They used a combination of sand and ground up coconut shells. The recycled material allows the baseball to bounce more like on real dirt than on rubber pellets. They also added crushed walnut shells to the dirt near the fence. When the shells are walked on, they make a unique sound, which helps a player know they are in danger of crashing into the wall. The best part of the project was that the old turf was repurposed by giving it to local parks to use for kids to play on!



Learn more: atmlb.com/4cQ6qvo

STEM Career: Ornithologist

Did you ever stop and watch birds fly? Or maybe gather materials for a nest? An **Ornithologist** is someone who studies birds of all types. Some ornithologists track birds as they migrate. Others may capture and tag specific birds to find out more about their movements. They can even study bird habitats and work on improving them if needed. Before becoming an ornithologist, it is important to take classes in math and science. Most ornithologists have a college degree in biology, ecology, or zoology. While there are fewer jobs studying birds than some other careers, it is a rewarding job with opportunities to help birds and work in some beautiful outdoor places. And although it is a career, many people study birds as a hobby. You can volunteer at local nature parks or help with bird watching groups in your community. Ornithology is definitely a career that combines both practical and in-class studies. If you think studying birds sounds like an interesting career, get outside and start watching some birds, and learn more:



bit.ly/3U0fpTl or bit.ly/3POFFNR

The Puzzle

- 1) What number does the following represent: **nd st rd**
- 2) If a block weighs 8 kg plus half a block, how much would a block and a half weigh?

Decode the answers using $k=a$, $l=b$, $m=c$, $n=d$:

- 1) *dgy yxo drboo (crybd pyb comyxn psbcd drsbn)*
- 2) *dgoxdl pyeb uq*

STEM Challenge

Have you ever heard of the periodic table? It is a list of elements that make up everything in our world. Oxygen, helium, and copper are just a few elements you may have heard of. And each element has a symbol to make it quicker to write. Oxygen is O, Hydrogen is H, and Iron is Fe. Can you write some words with elements? Or maybe your name? One website that can help is chemspeller.com

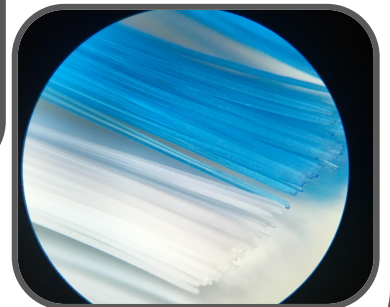
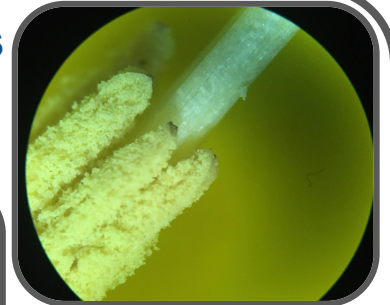
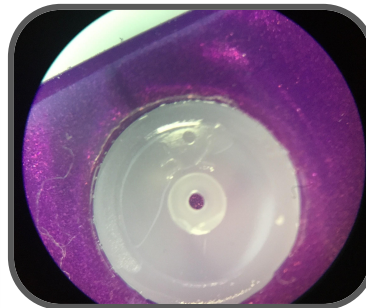
35 Br Bromine	8 O Oxygen	90 Th Thorium	68 Er Erbium
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42 Mo Molybdenum	90 Th Thorium	68 Er Erbium
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90 Th Thorium	49 In Indium	19 K Potassium
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Mystery Photos

Can you identify the mystery items under the microscope?



Decode the answer using $k=a$, $l=b$, $m=c$, $n=d$:
nkppynsv zscdsv kxn cdkwox, czbki lyddvo, dyydr lbecr