

The Daily STEM

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STEM in the News

Have you ever reused something that seemed like trash? The College of Idaho made a new baseball field in 2024, and used community waste to make it. They used a local company to shred old car tires to make the artificial field. Not only that, they decided to make the field purple! **Learn more:** bit.ly/4c6Njyl



Someone in New York decided to reuse trash in a much different way. Justin Gignac has been picking up trash from special events in New York for years, and puts it in clear boxes for people to buy as a souvenir. When Travis Kelce and Taylor Swift got married, he went out that night and picked up garbage around the arena where the wedding took place. He filled 50 one-inch boxes with bits of straws, a ring pop, even an airpod, and they sold out in just 24 hours at \$25 each! Would you buy trash from a special event? **Learn more:** bit.ly/4xuCT40



The Puzzles

Suppose you look in a mirror, and you see your left hand holding a lowercase "d". What are you doing in real life? What is the sum of $1+2-3+4-5+6-7+8-9+10$?

Decode the answers using 1=a, 2=b, 3=c, 4=d:

8-15-12-4-9-14-7 2 9-14 25-15-21-18 18-9-7-8-20

8-1-14-4 and 19-5-22-5-14

The Challenge

SpaceX launched their Starship 13 rocket on July 24, 2026. After a successful flight, the rocket landed in the Indian Ocean. The team at SpaceX hoped to recover it so they could examine it and reuse it. But because of weather and waves, it floated for 24 days until it could safely be towed to a nearby island (learn more: bit.ly/4gM39Rv). Can you create your own rocket and get it to float for 24 days? Find some materials (cardboard, tape, plastic wrap, etc) and see how long your rocket design can float!



STEM Career: Sports Analyst

Do you like to play sports? Every year, people watch thousands of professional athletes play games. But did you also know that thousands of people help those athletes play better using math and science? A **Sports Analyst** collects and uses data to help teams and players be the best they can be. Sports teams hire analysts to turn numbers into strategies that help teams win, keep players healthier, or provide statistics for fans. They use cameras or sensors to record data of players running, jumping, skating, or kicking. Some teams even collect data about opposing teams to prepare their players for a game. To become a sports analyst, be sure to take classes in mathematics and computer science. If this sounds like an interesting career, learn more: bit.ly/4cTVOWU, bit.ly/3UdT4Ei, & bit.ly/4geCmgL or watch bit.ly/4zzoPYv



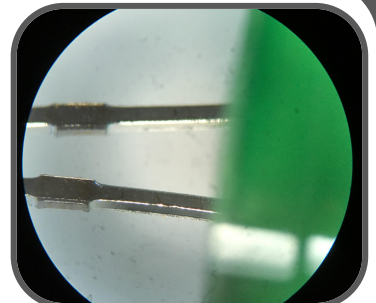
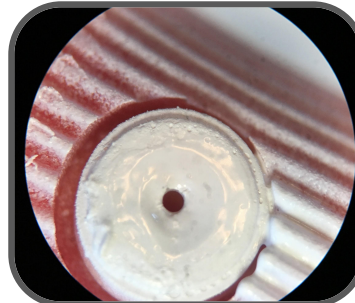
STEM Vocabulary

Data: information, especially facts and numbers, that are collected to be useful for making decisions

Analytics: a way to look at a bunch of numbers to find patterns or answer questions

Mystery Photos

Can you identify the mystery items under the microscope?



Decode the answers using

1=a, 2=b, 3=c, 4=d:

12-5-4 2-21-12-2 19-16-18-1-25

16-1-9-14-20 14-15-26-26-12-5

3-1-18-4-2-15-1-18-4