

Creating a  
**STEM Career  
Vision Board**  
Teacher Instructions



# Creating a STEM Career Vision Board

## Introduction

Students will embark on a creative journey that will help them visualize a future in STEM. Each student will create a STEM career vision board, a powerful tool to help them set intentions, stay motivated, and bring their goals to life.

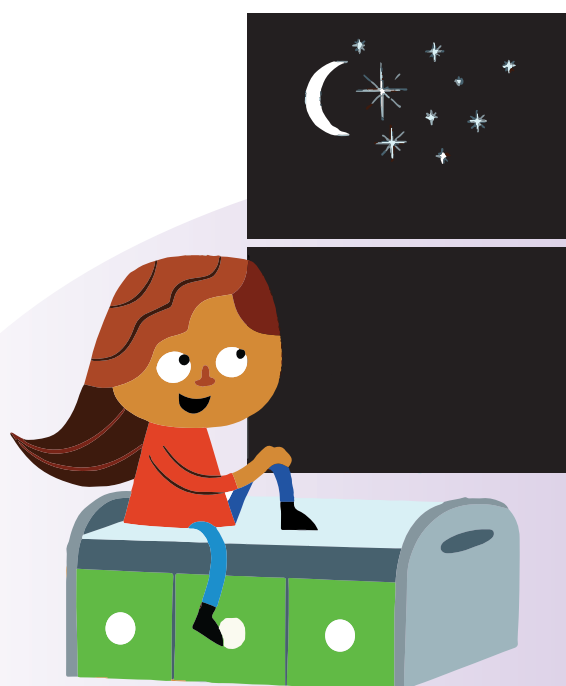
A vision board is a visual representation of your goals, dreams, and the future you want to create. Having a clear vision of your career aspirations can play a crucial role in guiding your path and achieving success. It serves as a constant reminder of your goals and can inspire you to move toward realizing them and open your mind to new possibilities.

## Focus Question

- What STEM career can you imagine yourself doing?

## Student Objectives

- Explore a variety of STEM careers.
- Select a STEM career that interests you the most.
- Research your STEM career and write down key information about the job and what qualifications you would need (education, physical ability, location requirements, etc.).
- Create a vision board showing yourself in the STEM career of choice.



## Recommended Materials List (Items can be purchased at [www.carolina.com](http://www.carolina.com).)

Item	Description	Item #
Cardstock	Cardstock, 80#, White, 8-1/2 x 11", Pack of 16	516212
Colored pencils	Colored Pencil Set, Set of 24	644286
Construction paper	Paper, Construction, White, 9 x 12 in, Pack of 50 Sheets	971268
Crayons	Crayon, Assorted Colors, Pack of 120	971626
Foamboard	Foamboard, 12 x 10", Pack of 16	975228
Pencils	Pencil, No. 2, Unsharpened, Pack of 100	971321
Scissors	Scissors, Student Precise Cut, 5-7/8 inch	974834

## Recommended Materials List (Items can be purchased locally or online.)

- Glitter
- Glue
- Letter stencils
- Markers
- Posterboard
- Printed pictures or quotes from resources (magazines, internet, etc.)
- STEM-related magazines
- Stickers

## Online Resources

- Innovators in Science library
- Smithsonian's STEM Careers Poster
- STEM Career Vision Board Worksheet



# Teaching This Activity

## Class Introduction

1. Ask students if they've ever been asked what they want to be when they grow up. Invite volunteers to share how they answer that question and why they chose that career.
2. Tell the class that they are going to select a career in STEM and create a vision board. Ask students to start to think about a future working in a STEM career.
3. Tell students that they will create a vision board showing themselves in a STEM career. Explain that a vision board is a picture or a collage of pictures showing what someone wants for their future. Creating a vision board can help inspire students to continue to learn and work toward their immediate or long-term goals.
4. Be sure students understand key vocabulary:
  - **Career:** A profession that may span your lifetime and includes your education, training, professional memberships, volunteering, and full history of paid work. Can be a synonym for occupation.
  - **Earn:** To receive money in exchange for goods or services.
  - **Job:** A specific arrangement in which you do tasks for an employer.
  - **Occupation:** Describes a type of work with associated tasks, education and training, typical wages, work settings, and more. Can be a synonym for *career*.

## Explore STEM Careers

1. Give students ample time to explore different STEM career options. Encourage them to use Carolina's *Innovators in Science* library, Smithsonian's STEM Careers Poster, or the Internet to research STEM careers that interest them.
2. Prompt students to consider the specific field or industry they want to work in, the skills they want to develop, and the impact they want to make. If students find this challenging, ask some or all the following supporting questions:
  - Which STEM career interests you the most?
  - What level of education do you need to prepare for the STEM career that interests me?
  - What are the things you like most about this STEM career?
  - What would you find challenging in this role?
3. Once each student has selected a STEM career, distribute the STEM Career Vision Board Worksheet. Go over the worksheet and the expectations for completing it. Explain that students will draw a picture of themselves working in the career they selected, label the picture, and answer some reflection questions.
4. Give students time to complete the worksheet. Provide crayons, markers, or colored pencils.
5. Give students the opportunity to tell their peers what STEM career they chose and why.



## Create Vision Boards

1. Explain to students what the vision board must include:
  - Pictures, printouts, images, and/or inspirational quotes related to the STEM career and industry they selected, role models, achievements, and skills they aspire to develop.
  - Personal elements, including photos of themselves, documentation of their achievements, or handwritten notes outlining specific milestones or skills they want to develop.
  - Affirmations or inspirational quotes that reinforce their beliefs and mindset about achieving their STEM career goals
2. Tell students when they will complete their vision boards (at home or during designated classroom time).
3. Give students ample time to complete their vision boards and provide the necessary materials.

## Share and Reflect

1. Display students' vision boards in the classroom.
2. Let students view each other's work by taking an "art walk."
  - Have students begin at their own vision board.
  - Count to 10, and then have students move to the vision board to their right.
  - Repeat until students have viewed all the vision boards and returned to their own.
3. Tell students that they will create a vision board showing themselves in a STEM career. Explain that a vision board is a picture or a collage of pictures showing what someone wants for their future. Creating a vision board can help inspire students to continue to learn and work toward their immediate or long-term goals.
4. Post photos of your students' STEM Career Vision Boards on Facebook and tag @Carolina.Biological.

