

15 Questions to Ask When Selecting STEM Activities

- #1 Is the activity safe?
- #2 Is the activity appropriate for the age group I am working with?
- #3 Are the youth I work with interested in this topic?
- #4 Does the activity have a hands-on component?
- #5 What STEM skills will youth learn by doing this activity?
- #6 Is there enough space, adequate time, staff support, etc. for this activity?
- #7 Are there any reasons (school rules, program regulations, etc.) why I shouldn't do this activity at my program?
- #8 Is this activity suited to the unpredictable environment of out-of-school learning?
- #9 Does this activity provide opportunities for collaboration?
- #10 Is there additional background knowledge needed? Is it easy to locate?
- #11 Are the materials and supplies required by the activity easy to access and affordable? If not, can I find other materials and supplies to use?
- #12 Does the activity address STEM standards? (NGSS, CCSS, NCTM, NSTA, state, or local standards)
- #13 Can the activity be part of an ongoing STEM theme that builds upon the previous experiences of youth?
- #14 Can I make a real world career connection to this activity?
- #15 Are there modern STEM role models to reference as part of the activity?

**Adapted from Click2Science's "Selecting STEM Activities" skill resources in collaboration with STEMfinity, the only one-stop-shop for PreK-12 STEM activities and resources. This article is part of a larger Click2Science professional development package that includes free resources like training guides, skill videos, and other downloadable materials.