

## STEM in the News

Against the backdrop of a raging and devastating pandemic, the world economy is projected to shrink by 3.2 per cent in 2020. For instance, India's economy has been observed to be slowing at a rapid pace since the March quarter. The COVID-19 pandemic has weakened the already "declining consumer demand and private investment," showing how the pandemic has essentially become an economic problem. "Economic activity will face ongoing disruption over the next year as the country transitions to a post-COVID-19 world," the rating agency S&P said on Thursday, May 28. In the U.S., millions of workers have claimed unemployment. Economies all over the world have ultimately shown distraught due to this unprecedented pandemic.

## STEM Career Spotlight

Have you ever used Google maps or Waze? If it was not for cartographers, we would not have these amazing tools to help us find our way from point A to point B. Cartographers are very knowledgeable, experienced and are responsible for making maps, among other job duties. They have to do a lot of research and exploring to get this job done right. In order to be a cartographer, you must have at least a Bachelor's degree. The median wage for this job is \$64,430 per year.

*"Ideas shape the course of history." - John  
Maynard Keynes*

## STEM in History

The American Republic had considerable financial problems in its early days. The first American bank was organized by Robert Morris in 1781. This was a private bank but it helped in financing the Revolutionary War, which did not end until 1783. Alexander Hamilton, a major organizational innovator in the Republic, argued for the creation of a central bank, a bankers' bank which would be the lender of last resort. Such a central bank would stabilize the financial system and issue banknotes to supplement the gold and silver in circulation. Hamilton saw lending funds to the Federal Government as a major function of such a central bank.

Source: <https://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/watkins/BofUS.htm>

## STEM Across the Curriculum

This activity integrates economics lessons into PE curriculum. Students take on the roles of entrepreneurs, professional athletes, and ordinary consumers to demonstrate how entrepreneurs make lives better for consumers of their products. Follow the link for details:

<https://www.econedlink.org/resources/sports-economics-teaching-entrepreneurship/>

## STEM Movies

*The Pursuit of Happiness* (2006) teaches us that it is never too late to start something new. The character Will Smith played in the movie was already in his 40's when he started the internship at the stock brokerage firm. He was conscious of the fact that the other people competing for the position were half his age, but he didn't let that stop him, he didn't allow his age to be a barrier to his goals. Maybe you are looking at yourself today and thinking to yourself "I'm too old to start that" or "I'm too young to start that" age is nothing but a number. What matters is your drive and willingness to succeed not your age.

Source: <https://www.quora.com/What-are-some-simple-yet-valuable-life-lessons-that-one-can-learn-from-the-movie-The-Pursuit-of-Happiness>

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*"Concentrated power is not rendered harmless by the good intentions of those who create it."* -  
Milton Friedman

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## #STEM@ADM Spotlight

Mr. Smalls teaches Math 8 and Algebra 1 Honors at Alice Drive Middle School. Mathematics is used in his classroom as he teaches various skills. He utilizes economics during algebra when solving and explaining problems that require finding total cost. Mr. Smalls works diligently to help his students learn about the principles and uses of algebra. Thank you, Mr. Smalls, for sharing your passion for STEM with your students!

## Famous STEM Person

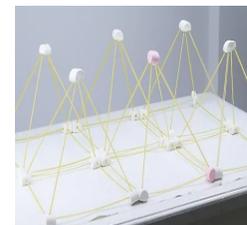
Milton Friedman is an American economist best known for receiving a Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences in 1976. For his achievements in the fields of consumption analysis, monetary history, and theory and for his demonstration of the complexity of stabilization policy.

Source: <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/economic-sciences/1976/press-release/>

## STEM Challenge

### The Marshmallow Structure

One of the keys to starting a successful business is teamwork and problem solving. This requires creativity, innovation and thinking outside the box, but also being able to develop a plan and execute



it as a team. Partner up with a family member for this challenge, where your team has 20 minutes to work together to construct a spaghetti tower with a marshmallow on the top. See detailed instructions here: <http://www.juniorachievement.org/document/s/193773/563462/The+Marshmallow+Challenge+Instructions.pdf/>

## STEM Puzzle

Brain Teaser: Which state boasts two Federal Reserve Banks?

For answers and more brain teasers, check out <http://www.econoclass.com/brain teasers.html>