CAREER
CONNECTIONS

#goals

The **coolest** jobs in **STEM**

+

the 4 surprising skills you'll need to get 'em

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PROFILES IN STEM

Do you have the skills to succeed in a STEM job?

THE GAMERS

Who says that playing Fortnite or Overwatch isn't educational? Not these video game creators! With collaboration, creativity, and curiosity, these STEM professionals build digital worlds to fascinate and entertain.

Britney Coates
3-D Artist at Sinking Ship Entertainment

My Strengths Artistic, organized, curious, adaptable.

In My Job I use 3-D computer software to create video game environments. Everything is constantly changing, and it's easy for me to feel anxious if I'm assigned a task I've never done before. Something that I have come to embrace is that I will always be teaching myself something new.

Growing Up Art was my favorite class. I took classes outside of school to get even more practice and learn about different kinds of art.

Pro Tip Invest time in activities that combine your interests and abilities. Remind yourself that you don't have to like something simply because you're good at it.

Andrea Luc
Game Designer & Producer at TVO

My Strengths Seeing things through, digging into details, creativity, collaboration.

In My Job I work with a team to create characters, concepts, and mechanics for video games. Although I was scared of math growing up, now I create educational math and STEM games for kids. I get to make tough concepts fun and easier for kids to understand. Weaving narrative into the games I create is one of the most fun things I get to do every day.

2.73 BILLION
Number of gamers projected by the year 2021

Growing Up It was scary to admit when I didn't understand something, like math.

Pro Tip Mistakes are bound to happen—what matters most is how you move on.

Matthew Ostil
Game Developer at AXS Studios

My Strengths Problem solving, planning, collaboration, willingness to learn.

In My Job I build video games and apps using code. When I first started coding, I felt behind everyone else who had been creating games for years. I learned quickly that my feelings, not my abilities, were standing in the way of my success. I started practicing, challenging myself to solve problems, and teaching myself new things.

Growing Up I fell behind in math class. I felt lost and like I couldn't grasp the concepts. I would get stressed out and give up.

Pro Tip When a tough problem arises, ask for help! I've made so many good friends from working together on problems.

THE
CRIME
BUSTER

People with strong problem-solving and innovation skills build the technology that helps protect your privacy.

Kathy Zant
Cyber Security Consultant at Defiant

My Strengths Communication, persistence, curiosity, bored by boredom.

In My Job I help protect companies against Internet security threats. I work with a team of researchers and developers to investigate malware found on websites. We use security tools to find out how it got there and to protect the site from future attacks. When I first started in my role, I sometimes felt overwhelmed. In Internet security, there's always a new problem and there isn't always one right solution. Now I've learned strategies to refresh and start again.
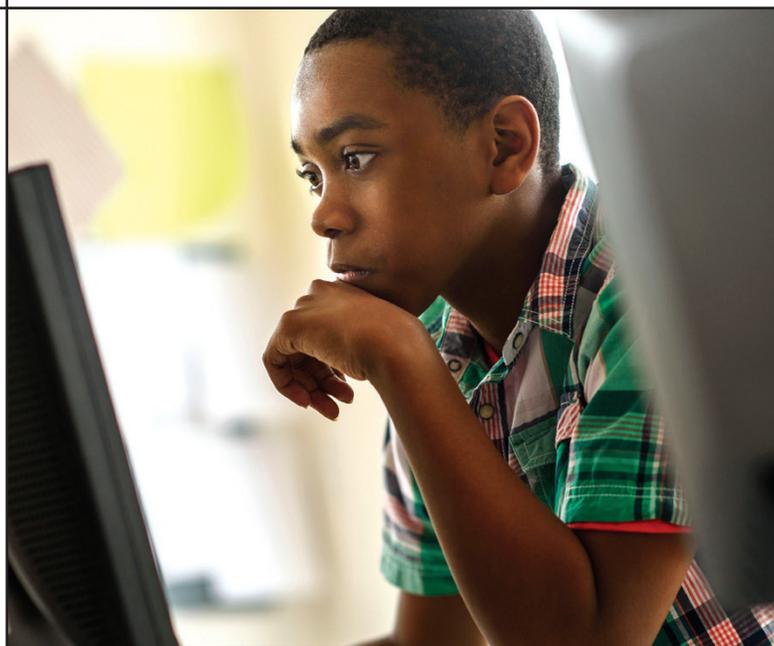
Growing Up I was bored in classes I didn't find challenging. I wasn't motivated by getting "easy" good grades. I liked to explore topics on my own time, in my own way.

Pro Tip If you start to feel overwhelmed, get away from a problem for a few minutes. Solutions to problems come more easily after taking a deep breath and attacking again with a new mind-set.

EVERY 39 SECONDS
How often hackers launch attacks on computers

FUTURISTIC 4

Roughly 85 percent of the jobs that will exist in 2030 haven't been invented yet! So future-proof yourself with these so-called "soft skills" that experts agree are key to succeeding in any career.

1 LEARNING & ADAPTING
Be willing to learn new things and adapt to change.

2 DESIGNING
Think of and create the best ways for systems to work.

3 SPEAKING & WRITING
Communicate ideas in ways that are easily understood.

4 COLLABORATION
Work together with a team to solve problems and innovate.

THE
ECO-CRUSADERS

Do you love the planet and all of its creatures? With passion and empathy you can use science and technology to change the world!

Jillian Morris-Brake
Marine Biologist, Shark Conservationist at Sharks4Kids

My Strengths Passionate, hardworking, adventurous, teaching others.

In My Job My job is different every day. Some days I am underwater, filming and photographing sharks. Other days I'm in the field, conducting research and tagging sharks. Often, I am spending time educating young people with Sharks4Kids, a nonprofit organization that teaches kids in classrooms all over the world about sharks and ocean conservation. Having a strong background in math and science has helped in my fieldwork, but I believe having a passion for my work is my greatest asset.

Growing Up At age 8, I met my first manatee and nurse shark while snorkeling in Florida. I knew I wanted to be a marine biologist. Science would help me learn more about the world, and art let me be creative. My favorite things to draw and paint were sharks and dolphins.

Pro Tip Don't let anyone discourage you or make you feel that you don't belong.

Kyle Shaughnessy
Solar Project Manager & Entrepreneur at Rise Solar Canada Inc.

My Strengths Empathy, relationship-building, communication, brainstorming.

In My Job I maintain rooftop solar installations to make sure they're generating power efficiently. I ended up in a STEM career because I want to make a positive impact on the environment. I want to be a part of the growing movement toward sustainable and renewable energy and away from technologies that pollute.

4
Number of days Portugal powered its entire country using only wind, solar, and hydro-generated electricity

Growing Up I always thought I would end up becoming a teacher or a lawyer. I'd never really excelled in math or science and had no experience working with electricity or engineering. Throughout school, I played volleyball and basketball, which is where I learned that the best teams work with each other's strengths and around each other's weaknesses.

Pro Tip It's OK if things don't come naturally. Work as hard as you can and draw on your other strengths to succeed.