



Nevada STEMList of Recommended STEM Programs

June 2024

Gizmos



Program Overview

Gizmos provides supplemental instruction that engages students to become active participants in their own learning and practice of the scientific method. With visuals, varied representations, open-ended challenges, and rigorous student questioning, students internalize scientific concepts and think through their responses instead of just memorizing facts. Students become confident in their problem-solving, capable of justifying their answers and applying their understanding to new scenarios.

Target Population Grades or Ages

Grades 3-12

A Unique or Special Focus of the Program

Gizmos STEM cases offer students rigorous learning embedded in real-life scenarios, leveraging highly engaging simulations to guide students through supported challenges. The STEM cases begin with captivating introductory videos to set the scene and introduce the major concepts. Lessons are interactive, offering a central question that students must solve by researching background information and performing lab tests. Students apply math and science skills to relevant real-life events. Following a Gizmos STEM case simulation, students participate in authentic assessments by creating a written summary that mimics a scaffolded lab report to strengthen their scientific literacy and writing.

Impact on Participants

Gizmos supplements instruction so that students learn not only the *what* about a topic, but also the *why*. The structured inquiry approach has been validated by extensive research as a highly effective way to build conceptual understanding in math and science. Key strategies inherent to Gizmos, such as manipulation, inquiry-based learning, and technology-enhanced instruction, have been proven to bolster student performance.

Specific Skills

Each simulation is aligned to national and state standards for both mathematics and science. The website makes it easy for teachers to find and identify Gizmos activities aligned to state standards and assign them to students.

Resources Provided to Facilitators/Users

Gizmos simulations offer a complete set of instructional materials to support student learning and optimize teacher instruction. All lesson materials can be used as-is, customized by teachers, viewed online, printed, or downloaded. Materials include a Teacher Guide, Student Exploration sheet, Vocabulary sheet, and Assessment quizzes.

Website

<https://gizmos.explorelearning.com/>

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