

# Classroom STEM Gender Bias Experiment

**INTRODUCTION:** Today's students are aware that girls can do and be whatever they chose to. However, bias still exists, especially in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math. This quick activity is designed to create awareness of this situation and will likely lead to student awareness and a likely classroom discussion.

**TIME ALLOCATION:** 15-20 minutes

**GRADE LEVEL:** 3-5

**MATERIALS:**

- Activity Sheet- Thinking About Scientists
- Writing tools

**OBJECTIVES:**

- The student will consider gender bias as it pertains to careers in the STEM professions.
- The student will participate in an activity and class discussion based on the results of teacher directed experiment.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Tell the students that you would like them to do a quick activity with the following rules:
  - There will be limited directions.
  - No questions will be answered and no discussion between students will be allowed.
  - The task must be completed in 5 minutes or less.
  - The task can not begin until the word "START" is announced.
  - There are no right or wrong answers.
2. Distribute activity sheet and writing tools.
3. Instruct the students to:
  - Draw a picture of a scientist.
  - Write the name of the scientist under the drawing.
  - Write three things the scientist does under the name of the scientist.
4. Repeat the directions and say "START"
5. After five minutes tell the students to put down their writing tools.
6. Ask several students to share their scientist with the class.
7. Take notes while they are sharing, noting if the selected scientists are real or imaginary, historic or contemporary, male or female, etc.

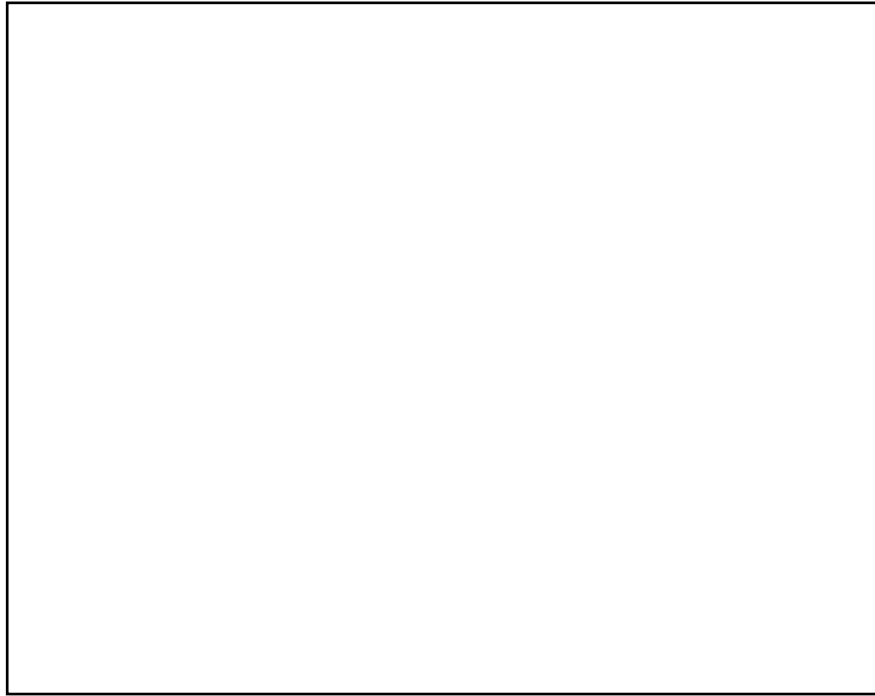
8. Then ask for a class count for the male and female scientist. It is likely that the number will be skewed toward male. Ask the students why they think this is the case.
9. Encourage discussion by asking questions such as: "What exactly is a scientist?" "Can you think of famous fictional scientist?" "Do you have to be a certain age, race, or gender to be a scientist?"

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Thinking About Scientists

Step I. Draw a picture of a scientist in the box.



Step II. Write the name of this scientist.

\_\_\_\_\_

Step III. List three things this scientist does.

1.

2.

3.