

The Daily STEM

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STEM in the News

Imagine aiming at a target 200,000,000 miles away and only missing by 3 feet. That's how close OSIRIS-REx came to its landing site on the asteroid Bennu. After launching in 2016, the OSIRIS-REx traveled to Bennu with the goal of bringing some of the asteroid back to Earth.

"We are on the way to returning the largest sample brought home from space since Apollo" said NASA Administrator Jim



Bridenstine. When the spacecraft landed, it used a small burst of nitrogen gas to stir the surface and loosen rocks. That allowed the sample collector arm to collect 2 ounces of surface material. The probe was only on the asteroid for seconds, then quickly backed away. Scientists are excited about being able to study the rocks that are brought back, but they'll have to wait a few years for it to return. Learn all about OSIRIS-REx at nasa.gov/osiris-rex

STEM Challenge

Have you ever tried solving a Rubik's Cube? The small, hand-sized puzzle has been challenging kids and adults alike since Erno Rubik invented it in 1974. Solving the cube is a great way to build perseverance and critical thinking skills. If you want to learn how to solve the cube, instructions are on youcandothecube.com. They even lend cubes to schools. Maybe you can even start your own Rubik's Cube Club at your school. Read about how a school in Maryland used a club to help kids build friendships: bit.ly/37DEOdy



STEM + Space Living

What if you had to travel to another planet? What kinds of challenges would there be? When people start taking missions to Mars, the astronauts will probably go in groups of 6 to 9, and the entire trip will take about 3 years. That means everything necessary for the trip will need to be

packed. It also means any injuries or illnesses will need to be diagnosed and fixed. Scientists also have to figure out how to protect the crew from the radiation in space. They also have to build machines to help astronauts get enough gravity to keep muscles and bones from weakening. What other problems can you imagine on such a long trip through space?

Learn more: bit.ly/2TjCu36



The Puzzle

If B, C, J, O, and S are in one group, while A, E, H, L, and N are in the other. Which group does Z belong to?

Last issue's answer: 16=7 and 17=9 (it was the number of letters in the number...sixteen is 7 letters)

How Are They Made?

Checking the time on our phones or watches means that traditional clocks are not as common. But clocks are a super example of engineering. Have you ever seen a cuckoo clock? Did you know the inventor was trying to make a rooster clock? Watch a video to see how they're made: bit.ly/2G1AmKs



Mystery Photo

What's under the microscope?
(answer in next issue)

*Last issue's answer:
The sole of a shoe, a rose petal, a fabric face mask*

