

# LIVING CLASSROOM & STEM



There is a real lack of skilled college graduates in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). To address this, STEM has become essential to the education of our children, beginning at an early age.

Though many think of science as taking place in a traditional indoor lab, Living Classroom knows the value of “open air labs”. We open the classroom door and go outside where learning is exciting, experiential and real-world.



Many of our lessons are centered around important STEM which are Next Generation Science Standard aligned and inquiry-based. Our lessons include tasks where students witness real-world examples of how science works.

Students get to think like scientists, learning about the scientific method through actual plant experiments and use math skills to measure the results. Concepts like bar charts, data points,

accurate measurement of height and weight and their denominations are incorporated into many lessons. Best of all, we see our students’ eyes light up when they make the connection between what they are learning in their books and the real world.

## Living Classroom lessons do everything a great STEM program should do in the elementary grades.

### Preparing Students for the Future Economy

The life science and environmental emphasis of Living Classroom lessons help students to understand the importance of our role in our local and global environment. A solid foundation in science, technology, engineering and math paves the way for the future, and in particular, for green jobs in the booming green economy.

From 1995-2012, while California's overall economy grew by 12%, employment in the state's green economy grew by 109%.



*"K-12 schools, especially in urban areas, rarely provide opportunities for students and their teachers to learn beyond classroom walls and to reconnect with nature. Living Classroom curriculum has the opposite effect: real-life outdoor experiences are integrated with STEM. As a result, STEM subjects become tangible, meaningful, and relevant to their lives."*

*-Professor of Education Dilafruz Williams,  
Portland State University*



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