

# International Day of Women & Girls in Science

## Customizable Classroom Lesson Plan



**Learning Format:** Virtual/Remote, Hybrid, and In-Person

**Academy Theme:** All Academy Themes | **Duration:** Flexible



## LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Engage in courageous conversations about gender stereotypes and biases in STEM
- Hear Verizon professionals speak about their career journey in the technology industry
- Learn the significance behind celebrating the International Day of Women and Girls in Science
- Celebrate and be inspired by the incredible achievements of women in STEM fields

## AGENDA

Icebreaker Discussion & Activity: (10 minutes)

- Begin by sharing information about the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. [Use UN Women's website for information and resources \(including short video\).](#)
- Have students discuss the following questions:
  - What stereotypes exist with STEM careers? Are there certain gender stereotypes about who studies STEM subjects?
  - Why is it important to raise awareness about the need for more diversity, equity, and inclusion in STEM careers?

Verizon's Virtual Guest Speaker Series: (Time is dependent on number of videos watched)

- Have students watch Verizon's Guest Speaker Series for the International Day of Women and Girls in Science [YouTube playlist](#).
- Assign students to watch a specific number of videos (videos are 2-3 minutes each). The number of videos that students watch depends on the time available for this lesson.

Student Discussion: (Time is flexible – minimum 15 minutes)

- After watching the virtual guest speaker series, educators should have students discuss their takeaways from the videos and any impact made.
- Ask students to discuss this question:
  - How can STEM students, educators, and professionals create platforms and more opportunities for inclusion for those marginalized in the STEM community?
- Discussion can also be guided by using the below hypothetical scenario or another similar scenario of the educator's choice:

*Tasha loves her robotics class but she's one of two girls in a class of 20. She truly excels in the class and helped her team get to the finals of a local robotics competition last year. Despite this success and her love for robotics, she is thinking of not enrolling in class next year or participating in robotics club because she is really tired of being teased - being called a nerd by the girls and having a hard time with boys excluding her in robotics class and telling her that robotics is only for boys. Imagine you're in Tasha's robotics class, and you know how talented she is. What would you do to encourage her to stay in robotics? How would you practice allyship by supporting Tasha?*

Wrap-Up: (5 minutes)

- Have students complete this [short feedback survey](#).

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## FURTHER LEARNING – OPTIONAL

### TEDx Talk:

- Watch Debbie Sterling's [TEDx Talk "Inspiring the Next Generation of Female Engineers"](#). Debbie is a Stanford-educated engineer and creator of GoldieBlox.
  - Encourage students to participate in the activity that Debbie describes at the beginning of the TEDx Talk.
  - After watching the TEDx Talk, educators should have students discuss their takeaways from the video and any impact made.

### Explore UN Women's Web Resources:

- Explore the UN Women's social media package of sharable data cards, inspirational quote cards, and illustrations of women who changed the world with their contributions in STEM [available here in English, French and Spanish](#).

### Learn about Nobel Prize winners who are Women:

- [Learn about the 57 women who have been awarded the Nobel Prize and Prize in Economic Sciences between 1901 and 2020. Only one woman, Marie Curie, has been honored twice.](#)