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### STEMcoach.com

By Sally Finley - Posted Nov 1, 2014

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**Company:** Accelerate Learning, Inc. 5615 Kirby Drive, Suite 310, Houston, TX, 77005; 800-531-0864; website: [acceleratelearning.com/stemcoach/](http://acceleratelearning.com/stemcoach/).

**Price:** STEMcoach is a free site for teachers

**Audience:** PreK–12 science teachers, coordinators, and supervisors.

**Format:** STEMcoach is available on the web. Teachers can also access information and resources on social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, You Tube, and Pinterest.

**System Requirements:** An internet connection is required for web access.

**Description:** STEMcoach provides STEM (an acronym for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) teachers with science curriculum resources, hands-on investigations, ready-made research lessons, classroom tips, online chats with other teachers, and videos.

REPORT CARD	
<b>Overall Rating:</b>	5 Stars
<b>Installation:</b>	A
<b>Content/Features:</b>	A
<b>Ease of Use:</b>	A
<b>Product Support:</b>	A

**Reviewer Comments:**

**Installation:** An internet connection is required. Bookmarking the address provides quick access to the site. **Installation Rating: A**

**Content/Features:** STEM Resources provides Hands-On Investigations, which include a Teacher Guide, Question Prompts, Student Journal, and a Student Guide correlated to state standards and Common Core standards. Instructional Practices provides strategies for the teacher to use with the students. 21st Century Careers offers grade-appropriate videos that describe skills needed for specific careers. Events offers an updated calendar of STEMcoach, STEMscopes, and STEM-community events.

Interact provides interactive professional development opportunities through STEMshare, STEMtalk, and STEMchallenges. Teachers can engage with others in their field by submitting lessons and videos. Live monthly chats provide discussions on timely STEM topics such as applying for grants and analyzing data. STEM Star Teachers are nominated by peers to share their stories.

Coach Reid's Blog and Dr. Talley's Blog offer professional development practices and insight into issues that affect student achievement. The STEMpioneers page features videos that show innovation, practice, scholarship, leadership and service in STEM. **Content/Features Rating: A**

**Ease of Use:** This site is easy to navigate and well-formatted. **Ease of Use Rating: A**

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**Product Support:** Support is provided through access to blogs encouraging questions and the sharing of ideas. A question form is available through a link. **Product Support Rating: A**

**Recommendation:** I found this site extremely easy to use. Both novice and experienced science teachers will appreciate the resources it offers, especially in the area of researching information. The site is continuously changing to keep up with trends and issues related to the STEM content areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Several blogs provide the opportunity for discussion and sharing of ideas. One of the site's strongest features is the ease in using the lesson plans. The Teacher Guide is concise and formatted in such a way that ready-made lessons can be immediately implemented in the classroom. There are sections for materials, preparation, procedures, and facilitation, as well as a learning strategy to be used: think, pair, share. Question Prompts promoting higher-level thinking skills are provided along with suggested responses. The Student Guide is given to each student and is easy to understand. My favorite part of the lesson is the Student Journal, where students complete tasks to demonstrate mastery of concepts and a creative assignment as a final activity. This site includes a calendar listing conferences, program events, and online talks. Teachers will appreciate having this professional development information available to them in one convenient location.

Sharing is encouraged through STEMshare. Educators submit lessons and videos using a form provided. Teachers can also recognize peers in their field who have demonstrated excellence. One of the features that caught my attention was STEMtalk, where timely topics were discussed using social media. Tweet questions and comments are encouraged before and during live stream. A STEMtalk archive provides access to previous talks. STEMcoach is an excellent tool to promote student engagement using the latest technology. **Highly Recommended**

**Reviewer: Sally Finley** is an educational consultant based in Coral Springs, Fla. Her email address is [sallyfinley1@yahoo.com](mailto:sallyfinley1@yahoo.com).



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