

## Let's Go! STEM Trails: a holistic way of looking at science, technology, engineering and maths in the world around us using the local environment

Jeannette Morgan  
Bristol: Primary Science Teaching Trust, 2019  
£15.00

ISBN 978 0 9954811 5 2

### *Fabulous collection of 29 individual STEM trails*

This fabulous book is a collection of outdoor trail ideas to support STEM teaching in primary-aged pupils. The introduction is well worth a read as it provides the reader with a rationale for teaching outdoors as well as a background to the project and guidance on how to use the resource.

For each trail, the book outlines the concepts explored, some suggested locations, the key vocabulary, the scientific skills used, the resources and preparation, before moving on to 'what to do'. Key questions are outlined and ideas for 'back in the classroom' are suggested. Examples of the types of work that children might produce or pictures of the children following a STEM trail are included.

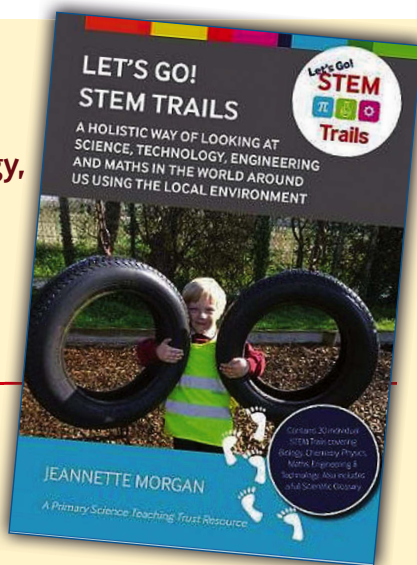
Most of the suggested locations are likely to be available to many schools, such as the school grounds, play parks, supermarkets and historical buildings. Some are more specialist, and the trail might form part of a school trip, such as the aquarium trail and the boats trail. Many of the STEM trails can be done anywhere, but some are only easily accessible for schools near a beach or near a forest. There is certainly something for every school in this book.

If I were a science leader or STEM leader in a primary school, I would buy a copy of the book and make sure that all staff knew where it was kept. I would lead a staff meeting introducing staff to a couple of my favourite trail ideas so that the book was used!

I think this book would really support teachers who are less confident in taking children outside the classroom, as well as providing a wealth of new ideas for more confident members of staff. As an experienced primary science and outdoor learning consultant, I still found new ideas in this book, such as the algorithms trail and some of the ideas for teaching children about electricity in the outdoor setting.

**Helen Spring**

*Primary Science and Outdoor Learning Consultant*



## The International Space Station

Clive Gifford, illustrated by Dan Schlitzkus  
London: Wayland, 2017  
32 pp. £12.99  
ISBN 978 1 5263 0216 8

*Invaluable for anyone teaching a topic on space and space exploration*



I have been using this amazing book in classes across the school for over a year now and the children

are absolutely captivated by it. It has enough information for the upper primary children and at the same time is so clearly written that children lower down the school can access it too.

The illustrations are fabulous and bring to life the short sharp blocks of informative text. The book takes you through the history of space stations and why we have them and then focuses in on the ISS. It covers the building of the ISS in space and how the different modules were designed to fit together. It then gives you an in-depth description of life on the ISS for the astronauts, covering how they keep fit, do their science experiments, eat, relax and, of course, recycle their urine! This book became the central focus for space topics throughout the school. It was also well used during our engineering week where children explored some of the most amazing engineering feats that humans have achieved.

A good glossary and list of websites and books to extend learning make this an invaluable book to anyone teaching a topic on space and space exploration.

**Victoria Tyler**

*St Leonard's Primary School*

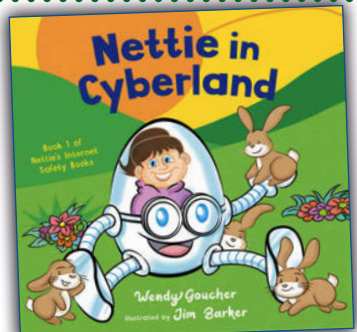
## Nettie in Cyberland

Wendy Goucher, illustrated by Jim Barker  
London: University of Buckingham Press, 2020  
32 pp. £6.99  
ISBN 978 1 80031984 4

*A useful resource for teaching young children about online safety*

*Nettie in Cyberland* is the first title in a series of 'Nettie's Internet safety' books. The books are for key stage 1 (ages 5-7) and convey online safety messages through Nettie's various adventures. In this book Nettie finds herself taking a brief journey into 'Cyberland' (the internet) where she finds 'not everything is cute and fluffy'.

The narrative is broken up with prompts to discuss key ideas with the young readers, and a series of links to trusted resources are included for further discussion. The character and storyline are relatable and engaging for the age group. Within this adventure, Nettie is frustrated because she is not allowed to play on her grandad's tablet, so she uses it without asking and ends up falling into 'Cyberland' through the tablet screen. As she sets about exploring Cyberland she subsequently has some pleasant, and some not so pleasant, encounters,



before returning to the safety of her grandparents' home.

Nettie's experiences in Cyberland justify the key message of the book: that young children should not go on the internet on their own. It would have been beneficial if the positive internet experience was more valuable than looking at cute fluffy bunnies. Also, while Nettie was able to remove herself from Cyberland by pushing the button on the belly of her fictional robot host, it is important children know how this relates to what actions they should take if they find themselves feeling uncomfortable on the internet, but this could be covered in a subsequent class discussion.

This is a useful resource that could be used as part of broader planning for online safety lessons.

**Jon Chippindall**

*Teacher and computing lead, Crumpsall Lane Primary School, Manchester*

You too can become a reviewer. Contact [janehanrott@ase.org.uk](mailto:janehanrott@ase.org.uk) if you are interested.