


# WOMEN IN STEM



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**JOCELYN BELL BURNELL**

**She Found a Pulse**

Astrophysicist Dr. Burnell is credited with one of the most significant twentieth-century scientific achievements. She discovered the first radio pulsar signals coming from a neutron star.

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## CONCEPTS AND CONNECTIONS

Dr. Jocelyn Bell Burnell remembers growing up in a time when boys studied science and girls studied home economics. Burnell broke traditional gender role expectations (i.e., staying home to raise family\*) by continuing her revolutionary physics research after getting married.

### Did you know?

In 2008, Dr. Jocelyn Bell Burnell was appointed the first female President of the Institute of Physics.

Grades 4-6	Grades 6-8	Grades 9+
<p><b>Gender Roles:</b> These are social roles including the behaviors and attitudes that are considered acceptable, appropriate, or desirable for people based on their actual or perceived sex or gender.</p> <p>What are some examples of traditional vs. non-traditional gender roles?</p> <p>How have gender roles changed since the 1950s?</p>	<p><b>Gender Roles:</b> These are social roles encompassing the behaviors and attitudes that are considered acceptable, appropriate, or desirable for people based on their actual or perceived sex or gender.</p> <p>What are some examples of traditional vs. non-traditional gender roles?</p> <p>How might gender role expectations impact women studying or working in STEM?</p>	<p><b>Gender Roles:</b> These are social roles encompassing the behaviors and attitudes that are considered acceptable, appropriate, or desirable for people based on their actual or perceived sex or gender.</p> <p>What are some examples of traditional vs. non-traditional gender roles?</p> <p>How might gender role expectations impact women studying or working in STEM?</p> <p>How do gender roles operate and become reinforced in scientific contexts?</p>

### \*References:

Eagly, A. H., & Wood, W. (2011). *Social role theory*. Handbook of theories in social psychology, 2, 458-476.