

# WOMEN IN STEM



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**JILL TARTER**

**Are We Alone?**

Dr. Tarter's search for extraterrestrial intelligence included working on NASA's High Resolution Microwave Survey and being Director of the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence Institute's Centre for SETI Research.

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## CONCEPTS AND CONNECTIONS

**Dr. Jill Tarter** was often the only woman in her engineering and astronomy classes. Over time, she became one of several women to challenge the stereotype of what a scientist looks like. When asked to draw a scientist, most people draw an older Caucasian man with white hair in a lab coat. That stereotype is changing; Draw-A-Scientist studies from the past 50 years show that children's drawings of scientists depicted women more in recent decades (although not more than they depicted men\*).

### Did you know?

Dr. Jill Tarter was the real-life inspiration for Jodi Foster's character in the movie *Contact*.

Grades 4-6	Grades 6-8	Grades 9+
<p><b>Stereotypes:</b> Stereotypes are overgeneralizations of groups of people that are often negative and imply that all people in a demographic category are alike.</p> <p>What examples of gender stereotypes can you think of?</p> <p>What is the stereotype of a scientist?</p>	<p><b>Stereotypes:</b> Stereotypes are overgeneralizations of groups of people that are often negative and imply that all people in a demographic category are alike.</p> <p>How do the stereotypes of women and of scientists compare to one another?</p> <p>How do gender stereotypes impact women in the workplace?</p>	<p><b>Stereotypes:</b> Stereotypes are overgeneralizations of groups of people that are often negative and imply that all people in a demographic category are alike.</p> <p>How do the stereotypes of women and of scientists compare to one another?</p> <p>In what ways could gender stereotypes negatively impact women in STEM across education and industry?</p>

### \* References:

Miller, D. I., Nolla, K. M., Eagly, A. H., & Uttal, D. H. (2018). The Development of Children's Gender-Science Stereotypes: A Meta-analysis of 5 Decades of US Draw-A-Scientist Studies. *Child development*.