

WOMEN IN STEM

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HAYLEY TODESCO

Aquagirl Fights Pollution

Todesco has super scientific powers. She is part scientist, part environmental entrepreneur. At 16, she developed a system that uses existing bacteria in tailing ponds to break down toxic pollutants.

Ingenium is committed to encouraging and empowering women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and math. Learn more at ingeniumcanada.org/womeninstem/

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CONCEPTS AND CONNECTIONS

Hayley Todesco's fascination with science led her to an amazing discovery when she was only 16 years old. Although many girls may develop an interest in STEM, some lose interest by their mid-teens. This may be due to a lack of role models, gender norms and stereotypes, conformity to social expectations, and the patriarchal nature of STEM. Todesco's persistence in following a career in STEM is exceptional, and can serve to inspire girls and young women interested in the STEM fields.

Did you know?

A recent study showed that while 5-year-olds would associate high intelligence with their own gender, by age 6, both girls and boys associated high intelligence as being a male trait.*

Grades 4-6	Grades 6-8	Grades 9+
What are some examples of social expectations? Do some of these affect girls and women wanting to pursue a career in STEM?	What are some examples of social expectations? Do some of these affect girls and women wanting to pursue a career in STEM?	What are some examples of social expectations? Do some of these affect girls and women wanting to pursue a career in STEM?
	How have some gender norms and stereotypes changed over time?	How have some gender norms and stereotypes changed over time?
		Are some social expectations more universal than others?

References:

Bian, Lin; Leslie, Sarah-Jane and Cimpian, Andrei: Gender stereotypes about intellectual ability emerges early and influence children's interests. Science, January 27, 2017.