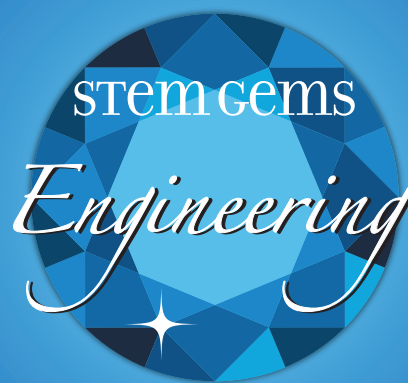


STEM Gem Career: ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER

STEM Gem:
SYLVIA LEE

"That single day made me want to go into engineering. Had I not gone to that, I don't think I would have known what engineering was. This is why I believe so much in the power of exposure."



Is a career in Environmental Engineering in your future? Are you passionate about caring for our environment and improving the state of the world? STEM Gem Sylvia Lee has made it her life's work to address the complex issues surrounding the availability and utilization of water around the globe. Serious stuff! Read her story and digest. Watch one of her videos. Then, with your STEM Gems Tribe, **discuss, explore, reflect,** and **act.**

DISCUSS

1. How do Environmental Engineers like Ms. Lee make a difference in the world?
2. What experiences did Ms. Lee have that led to her pursuit of a career as an Environmental Engineer?
3. What is Ms. Lee's educational background?
4. What are some of the challenges that Ms. Lee faced along her journey?
5. What are some of Ms. Lee's key accomplishments?
6. What inspired you most about Ms. Lee's story?
7. A 'girls in engineering' program opened Ms. Lee's eyes to her future goals. Ms. Lee says: *"That single day made me want to go into engineering. Had I not gone to that, I don't think I would have known what engineering was. This is why I believe in the power of exposure."* How has exposure to STEM careers and programs impacted you?

EXPLORE

1. To pursue a career as an Environmental Engineer, what college majors should you consider? What colleges and universities have programs in these areas?
3. What companies hire Environmental Engineers? What is the salary range for an Environmental Engineer?
4. What classes should you take in middle and high school to prepare for college and a career as an Environmental Engineer?
5. Name at least two other women Environmental Engineers. How are they similar to Ms. Lee? How are they different?
6. What professional organizations support women in Environmental Engineering? Do they have programs available for middle and high school students?

REFLECT

Ms. Lee credits her high school physics teacher for encouraging her attend a local engineering program. Have you developed relationships with your math and science teachers? Perhaps they, like Ms. Lee's physics teacher, have recommendations of STEM programs and resources that would open your eyes to new opportunities.

ACT

It's time to step outside your comfort zone. Name one concrete thing you will do before your next meeting that will have you one step closer to becoming a STEM Gem. Blog about it. Include it in your written or photo journal. Hold yourself accountable.

Work hard. Be brave. Stay curious.

BE A GEM!

Stephanie Espy

P.S. I'd love to hear about your journey. Share on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram and tag @STEMGemsBook #STEMGemsTribe, or email me at tribe@STEMGemsBook.com.