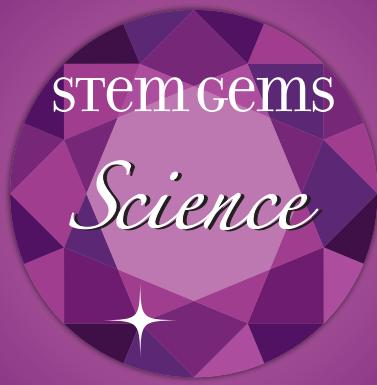


STEM Gem Career: FORENSIC SCIENTIST

STEM Gem: KAREN OLSON

"Overcome your fears by gaining experience and practice."



Is a career in Forensic Science in your future? What a cool way to help people! STEM Gem Karen Olson influences the development of new crime-fighting technology to assist in solving crimes. Read her story and digest. Watch one of her online videos. Then, with your STEM Gems Tribe, **discuss, explore, reflect, and act.**

DISCUSS

1. How do Forensic Scientists like Dr. Olson make a difference in the world?

2. What experiences did Dr. Olson have growing up that led to her pursuit of a career as a Forensic Scientist?

3. What is Dr. Olson's educational background?

4. What are some of the challenges that Dr. Olson faced along her journey and in her career?

5. What are some of Dr. Olson's key accomplishments?

6. What inspired you most about Dr. Olson's story?

7. Dr. Olson says: "*Overcome your fears by gaining experience and practice.*" How does her advice resonate with you? Why do you think that gaining experience and practice is critical to overcoming a fear?

EXPLORE

1. To pursue a career as a Forensic Scientist, what college majors should you consider?
2. What colleges and universities have programs in these areas?
3. What types of jobs are available for Forensic Scientists? What is the salary range for a Forensic Scientist?
4. What classes should you take in middle and high school to prepare for a career as a Forensic Scientist?
5. Name at least two other women Forensic Scientists. How are they similar to Dr. Olson? How are they different?
6. What professional organizations support women in Forensic Science? Do they have programs established for middle and high school students to learn more about this career?

REFLECT

Dr. Olson really hated giving presentations – they made her nervous. But she overcame her fear with practice and experience, and even won the ‘best talk’ award. Be honest with yourself: what are your fears? What can you do starting today to overcome them?

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.