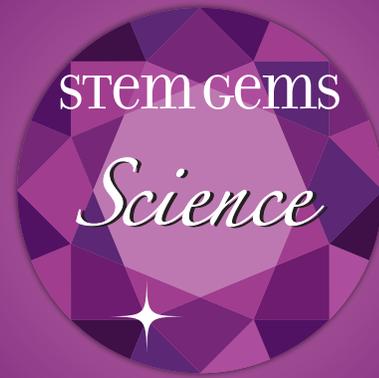


STEM Gem Career:  
**MICROBIOLOGIST**

STEM Gem:  
**JANET JANSSON**

*"I loved to go to the lab in the mornings  
and check the results of my experiments."*



Is a career in Microbiology in your future? Maybe you enjoy biology but never thought out microbiology... until now! STEM Gem Janet Jansson studies microbes, or microscopic living organisms found in air, soil, and water, that carry out critical, life-sustaining functions. 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 Microbiologists like Dr. Jansson make a difference in the world?
2. What experiences did Dr. Jansson have growing up that led to her pursuit of a career as a Microbiologist?
3. What is Dr. Jansson's educational background?
4. What are some of the challenges that Dr. Jansson faced along her journey?
5. What are some of Dr. Jansson's key accomplishments?
6. What inspired you most about Dr. Jansson's story?
7. Dr. Jansson says: *"I loved to go to the lab in the mornings and check the results of my experiments."* Her undergraduate research opportunity helped shape her future. What opportunities in your school and/or community have you sought out? How have these opportunities shaped your interests?

## EXPLORE

1. What are the various branches of Microbiology?
2. What colleges and universities have programs in these areas?
3. Where do Microbiologists work? What is the salary range for a Microbiologist?
4. What classes should you take in middle and high school to prepare for a career as a Microbiologist?
5. Name at least two other women Microbiologists. How are they similar to Dr. Jansson? How are they different?
6. What professional organizations support women in Microbiology? Do they have programs established for middle and high school students?

## REFLECT

Dr. Jansson says that women need a support system – especially as they start to have families. Why is having a support system so important for women? What value have you found in having the support of your STEM Gems Tribe? How can you and your classmates support one another?

## 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](mailto:tribe@STEMGemsBook.com).