

Formative Experiences in Museums: Pile Sorting Activity

Included Materials:

22 Experience Cards
2 “Other” Cards
5 Category/Pile Cards
1 Name Card

Instructions:

Each participant should have a deck of 24 cards. The categories should be set up as follows -

Strongly Encouraged	Somewhat Encouraged	No Impact	Discouraged	Did Not Experience

Additionally, the number of the deck should be written on the back of each card, and each participant should be given a pen or marker to fill in the “Other” card if they so choose.

This “Pile Sorting Activity” was developed by a WPI student team for a university research project in collaboration with Museums Victoria. The content and purpose of these cards is intended for use within a focus group setting to prompt discussion. If you would like to read the student’s full report, please enter *Formative Experiences in Museums: Influencing STEM Aspirations in Australian Youth* in the search bar on Worcester Polytechnic Institute’s *Digital WPI* website (<https://digital.wpi.edu/>).

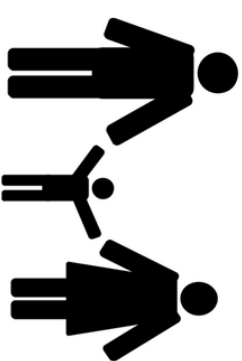
Conversations with Teachers



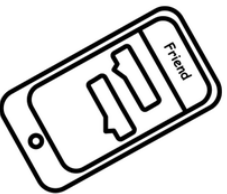
Museum Exhibit or Program



STEM Experiences or Activities
with Family



Discussions of STEM with
Peers or Friends



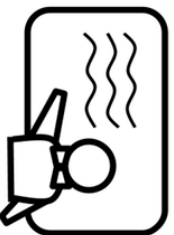
Reading Books on Science or
STEM



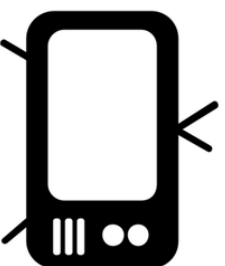
Receiving Grades in STEM
Classes



Conversations or Lectures
with Scientists or STEM



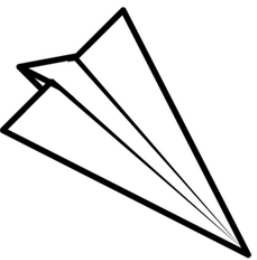
Watching STEM-Related TV
Shows/Films



Conversations with Parents
about STEM



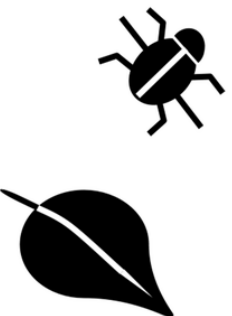
Personal Hobbies (e.g. model
airplanes, collecting specimens)



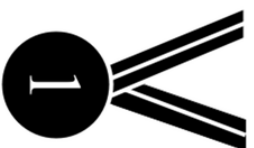
Work Experience



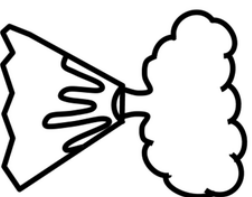
Nature-Based Experiences



STEM Competitions



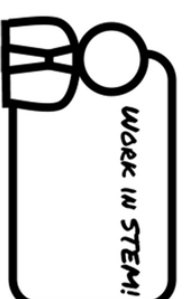
School Project



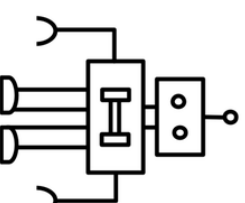
Playing with STEM Toys



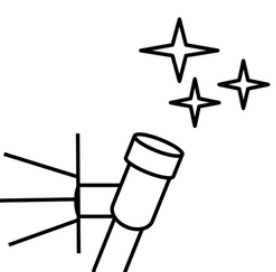
Career Expo or Career
Counselor



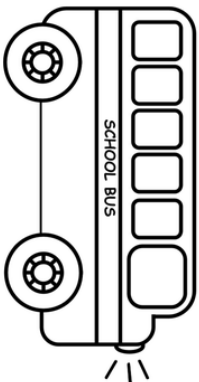
After School STEM
Activities/Clubs



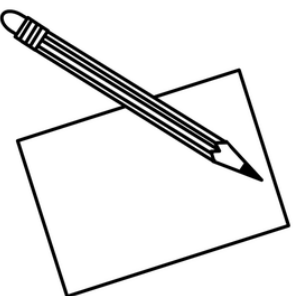
School Holiday Programs



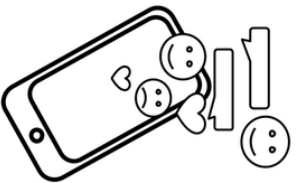
School Excursion



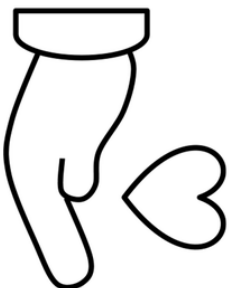
Classroom Activities



Social and Digital Media



Volunteering



Other
(Fill in)

Other
(Fill in)

Somewhat Encouraged

Discouraged

Strongly Encouraged

No Impact