



Indigenous STEAM

The ISTEAM Collaborative

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Learning from Plants: Our First Teachers

◇ ISTEAM is firmly grounded in the teaching that plants are our first teachers. Paying close attention to plant life helps us build stronger relationships with lands and waters, and deepens our place-based knowledge. Plants play important roles within ecosystems so learning from plants teaches us about the many beings that plants are in relation to and about the ecosystems as a whole. Take a look at the [Introduction to the Plant Arc](#). Plants can also teach us how to live a good life in harmony with our environment, such as how to care for and respect those around us or how to thrive in difficult conditions. An important component of Indigenous science is the understanding that all things are related. You can observe plants as you also engage in discussion about water and the relationship that plants have with water. You can find other land-based Science activities such as [Introduction to the Water Arc](#) on our [website](#).



Voices - Felicia Peters



◇ Felicia Peters (Menominee and Santo Domingo Pueblo) is happy to join ISTEAM as a Program Coordinator. She has worked with ISTEAM and the Chicago Native American Community for over 15 years. Felicia credits ISTEAM for motivating her towards education and becoming a teacher. Since 2015, Felicia has taught Middle School Math and Science in Chicago Public Schools and will miss the classroom but is looking forward to working with Indigenous communities focusing on our homelands, our ancestors, our relatives and ISTEAM. Felicia's son Derrick has also grown up as part of ISTEAM and continues to build relationships with his plant and animal relatives through activities learned through ISTEAM.

ISTEAM - What's New?

Be a Research Participant!

- ◇ The ISTEAM Collaborative wants to know what you think about the natural world! Take a 20 minute survey about the environment to help us learn how culture affects how people think. This research survey is open to all adults in North America.
- ◇ Our research project is Changing Lands and Waters, PI Megan Bang, Northwestern University (IRB STU00215070). Take the research survey [here](#) or contact us for more info.

Upcoming Events

Look for presentations by Anna Lees, Megan Bang, Nikki McDaid, Forrest Bruce, and Krystal Villanosa at [AERA](#), held April 21-26 in San Diego.

Felicia and Forrest will present at the [Urban Native Education Conference](#) near Chicago on April 22.

Be sure to look us up if you attend either conference!

We want to hear from you!

If you're using our materials, we would love to hear from you. Have you modified the materials to suit your own setting? Have you used the DIY card templates to create your own cards? Did you learn something new? Send us your thoughts or pictures at Twitter or Instagram @IndigenousSTEAM or email us at info@indigenousteam.org.



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