

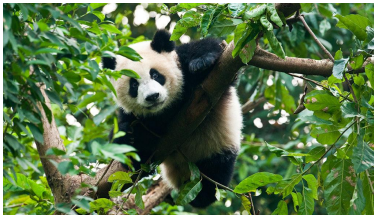
# The Daily STEM

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## STEM in the News

What if you were an animal and had to climb trees? That would be fun...if your arms were long. The panda bear has short arms, which means it has a harder time climbing. And climbing is important for pandas so that they can escape from wild dogs. Scientists put young pandas in a room with 4 different sized trees that had the bark removed. They learned that the pandas would push their heads against the tree to grip and hold, helping them climb the tree. What other animals have amazing abilities?



Learn more: [bit.ly/38REsNg](http://bit.ly/38REsNg)

## STEM + Mars Rover

The next Mars rover has a name, Perseverance. It was thought up by Alexander Mather, a Virginia 7th grader, as part of the Name the Rover contest. Previous Mars rovers Sojourner (1997), Spirit and Opportunity (2004) and Curiosity (2012) all explored the planet and sent back pictures and information. The new rover will launch in July 2020 and land in February 2021. "This Mars rover will help pave the way for human presence there, and I wanted to try and help in any way I could...refusal of the challenge was not an option" said Alexander. What if you invented a rover to explore a planet. What would you want it to do? What kind of experiments or tools would you want it to have?



To learn more: [go.nasa.gov/2TQeRQP](http://go.nasa.gov/2TQeRQP)

## STEM Challenge

Did you know that you can make your own hand-sanitizer? Here's a simple recipe that only needs a few ingredients...just get a parent to help:

¾ cup of isopropyl or rubbing alcohol (99%)

¼ cup of aloe vera gel

A few drops of essential oil

Pour all ingredients into a bowl, mix it up until it becomes a gel, then put in an empty bottle and label it "hand sanitizer."



Remember, it's still important to use soap and water to wash your hands. Hand sanitizer is good when soap and water isn't available. Always wash your hands after going to the bathroom, blowing your nose, coughing, sneezing, and before eating or helping prepare food.

(Recipe from [bit.ly/2WhbCU0](http://bit.ly/2WhbCU0))

## How it's Made

Paper towels were invented in the 1920's in America and were sold worldwide by 1931. Many rolls are made from recycled paper. Factories in the U.S. produce 50 trillion rolls of paper towel each year. Do you know why it has bumpy patterns? Do you know how they make it strong? Do you know how they make the tear lines? Watch this video to see how paper towels are made: [bit.ly/3b1lohp](http://bit.ly/3b1lohp)



## The Puzzle

A bug starts at the bottom of a forty inch hole. It crawls up four inches each day, but every night it slips back three inches. At this rate, how long will it take the bug to crawl out of the hole?

Last week's answer:  $44+44+4+4+4=500$

## Mystery Photos

What's under the microscope?  
(answer in next issue)

Last issue's answer:  
A key

