



# Science Monthly

District NGSS and Science News

BACK TO SCHOOL

AUGUST 2019



**Website of the Month:**  
[NISEnet.org](http://NISEnet.org)

**Youtube Channel Of the Month:**  
Stated Clearly

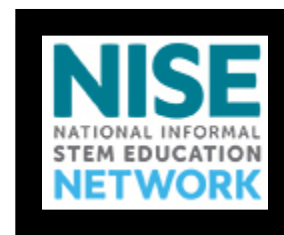
**NGSS Curriculum Adoption and CAST Updates**

## Welcome Back!

It's about that time again. Time to dust off the Expo markers and read those emails, the 2019-2020 school year has begun and it is my hope that all of our science classes hit the ground running! This year we can look forward to collaborating together on your visions for science in San Jacinto. All grade levels will be working on introducing more inquiry into the classroom so that students will have multiple opportunities to apply their knowledge and skills. Asking questions, defining problems and figuring out how to solve them are skills required for more than just science, they are important life skills that will carry the students into their futures. I look forward to seeing how you will inspire students this year to stay curious about our natural world and wish you all the best in the next 10 months!

-Jackie Gardner, NGSS TOSA

## Website of the Month: NISE (National Informal STEM Education Network)



<https://www.nisenet.org>

We all know that our students often learn best outside of a textbook, and as much as we might try sometimes they also learn best outside the classroom. Educators can be found in many places other than the classroom and they are just as dedicated to bringing the love of learning to students as our fellow credentialed teachers. The National Informal STEM Education Network website represents a community of educators that may not be in the classroom but are still very involved in the promotion of STEM learning. The network is comprised of members from public and private organizations including museums, community science centers, and university researchers. Some of the many services the network provides are program and activity plans, funding grants for educational exhibits, and many free online resources for educators nation-wide. For teachers looking for some professional development in their own time, there are articles and webinars posted for you to review. Watch prerecorded webinars or sign up for the newsletters to be involved with upcoming online workshops.





## Invisibility Cloak video



A great resource for finding a hands-on activity to accompany your lesson, teachers can browse the free activities which even include theater and stage presentations that your students could perform! Each lesson plan provides information on the development process of the resource because all products posted are *scientific* and *peer reviewed*.

Here's what they have to say about the NISE Network product development process-

*"NISE Network products are created through an iterative, collaborative process that involves scientists with expertise in the content area, professionals in the field of informal science education, and targeted public audiences. This process helps to ensure that our programs, exhibits, and other products are scientifically accurate, represent best practices in educational product development, and are effective experiences for our visitors."*

## Moon Landing 50th Anniversary - Apollo 11

During the Apollo program of the 1960s and '70s, NASA sent nine missions to the Moon. Six of them landed astronauts safely on the surface, the only times humans have visited another world.

July 20, 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the first humans landing on the Moon on July 20, 1969 as part of NASA's Apollo 11 lunar mission.

The NISE Network has compiled the following resources to help plan your event.



Apollo 11 [NASA Johnson Space Center]

### Special websites for Apollo's 50th Anniversary

- NASA Space STEM Forum anniversary resources  
<https://spacestem.nasa.gov>
- NASA Apollo anniversary resources

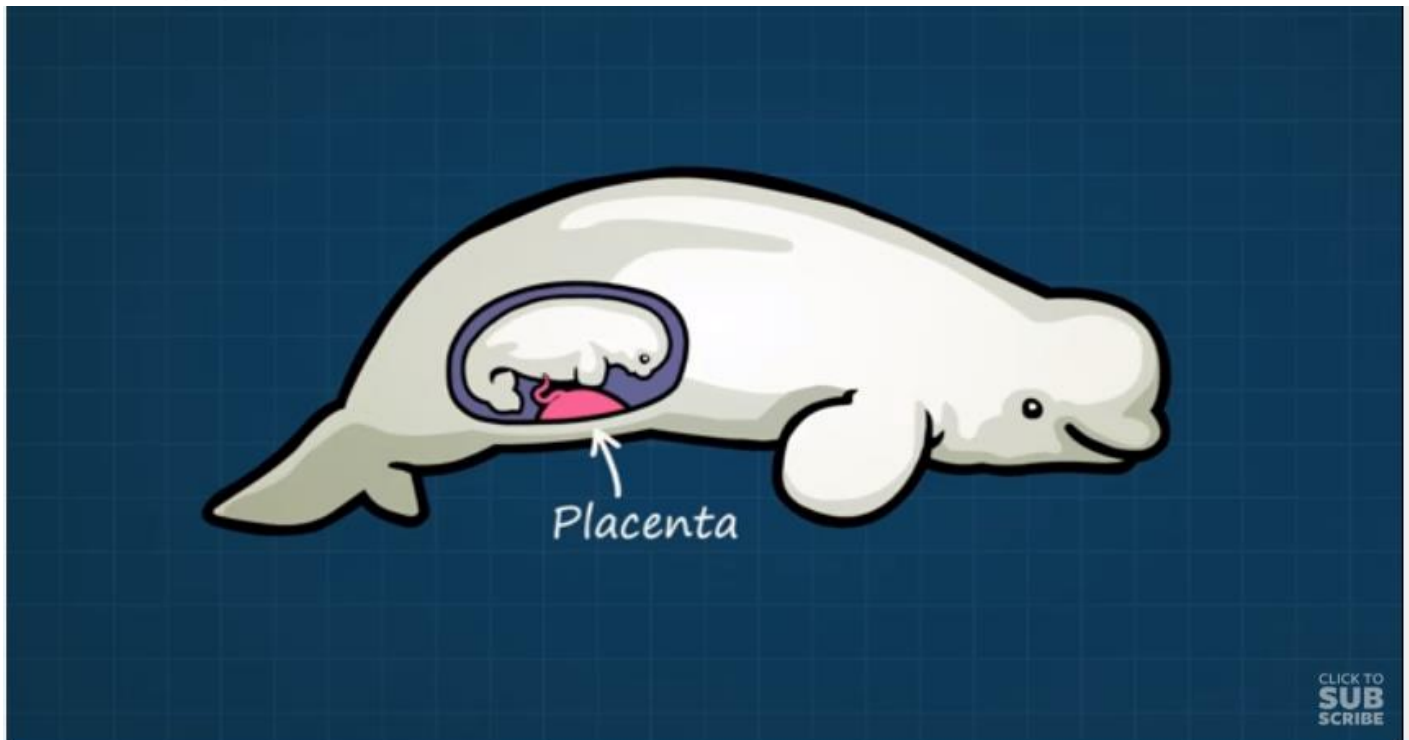
Perhaps you might be looking for a video or other media to use in the classroom for project-based learning, educational games to use at centers, or simulators to have students digitally experience their learning instead of just reading about it. Whether brushing up on your formative and summative assessment practices or looking for ways to build partnerships with local community organizations, there are resources to guide your professional growth in STEM education.

## YouTube Channel of the Month: Stated Clearly


[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_cznB5YZZmvAmeq7Y3EriQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_cznB5YZZmvAmeq7Y3EriQ)

What can you expect from Stated Clearly? It's all in the name, videos from the Stated Clearly YouTube channel provide simplified and easy paced videos explaining different concepts in science. These animated videos serve as a great resource for many concepts taught in biology and the life sciences as well as some basic chemistry concepts.



Started in 2012, the artist and science advocate Jon Perry made his first video "What is DNA and how does it work?" and thusly Stated Clearly was born. In his free time living in Oregon, Jon works with birds of prey in the Raptor Conservation Program of the Chintimini Wildlife Center. While not a formal scientist, Jon noted that the scientific community has been struggling to reach the public audience through traditional lectures and journals and decided to start the video project.



What is the Evidence for Evolution?

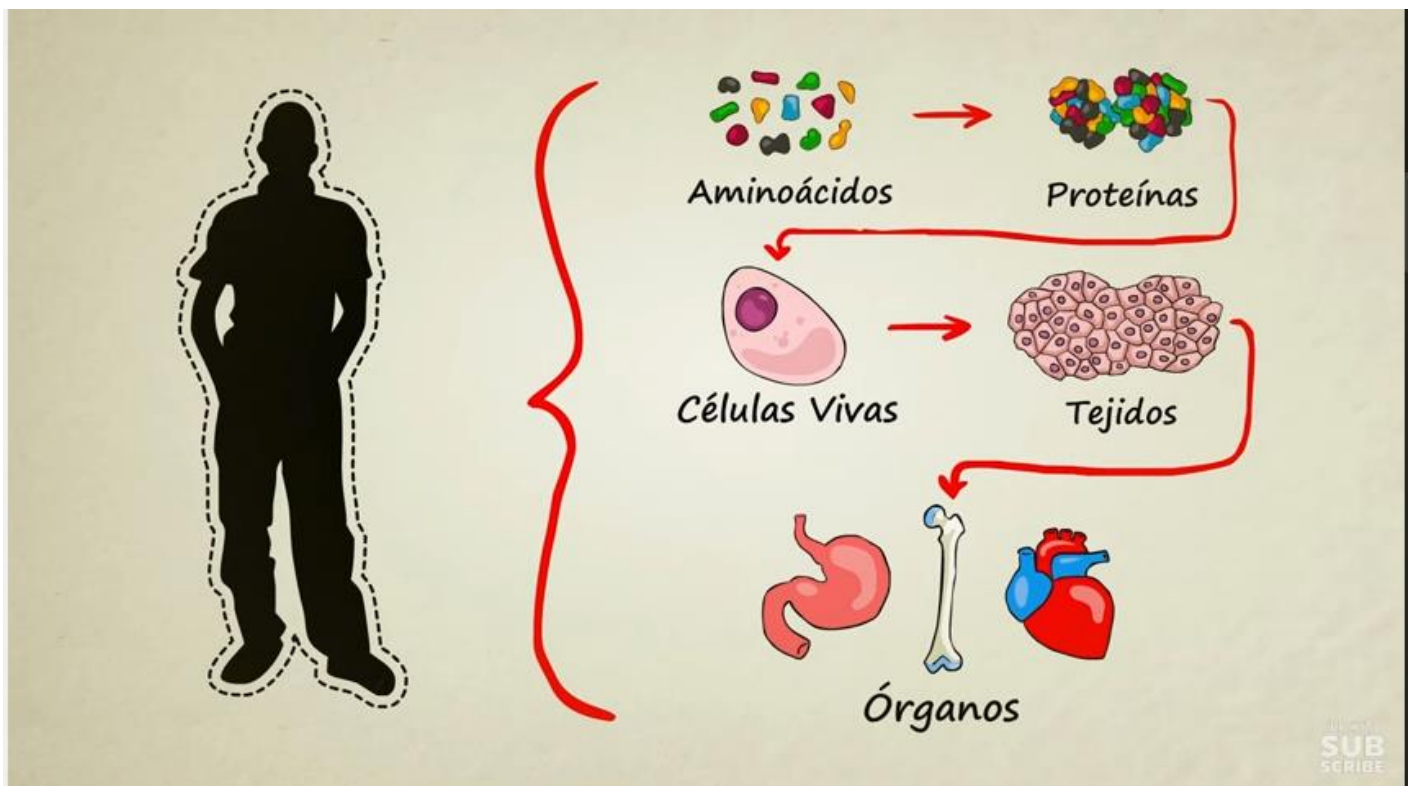
Stated Clearly 

3,138,040 views

+ Add to ... More  56,188  4,773

*"I could not be happier with my decision to start this project. Dozens of people have since joined our team, many of them give their talents for free. Researchers in the field have contributed hours of their time, pouring over my scripts, answering my ridiculous questions over the phone, and analyzing my illustrations for accuracy. These include scientific giants like Dr. Beatrice H. Hahn who helped discover the origin of HIV, famous whale paleontologist Dr. Philip D. Gingerich, and many others."* –Jon Perry

The quality videos are well researched for accuracy and ready for your life science classroom. Post them to your Google classroom for students to study with or even pull up some of the videos produced En Español for some of our diverse learners to watch at home with their families. For more information about the channel and its creators, visit [statedclearly.com](http://statedclearly.com).



¿Qué es el ADN y Cómo Funciona?

Stated Clearly

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## NGSS Curriculum Adoption:

In November 2018, the state of California formally approved a number of NGSS aligned curriculum. Through a rigorous evaluation, the state developed a list of qualified instructional materials for Kinder-8<sup>th</sup> grade. To implement the Next Generation Science Standards early, SJUSD purchased STEMscopes as a bridge program until the state released their list. We are happy to announce that STEMscopes was adopted for the state as one of their instructional materials and could potentially be adopted but now we will meet as a community of science educators to decide if we will continue to use the program or if there is another more qualified option to meet the diverse needs of our San Jacinto students. All educators who will be impacted by the adoption, both teachers and admin, are invited to attend the meetings. We ask that if you intend to volunteer your time for the process and pilot any instructional materials that you attend all adoption meetings. Please RSVP on the Google calendar invites when they go out if you are interested in participating.

\*After school meetings will be held from 3-5pm at the D.O.

\*\*Dates are subject to change depending on the needs of the selection process.

<b>Fall 2019: Middle School and High School Adoptions</b>	<b>Spring 2020: Elementary Adoption</b>
<b>Aug. 26, MON:</b> Criteria & Rubrics	<b>Jan. 22, WED:</b> Rubric and Choose Pilots
<b>Sep. 11, WED:</b> Selection of top 2 Programs to Pilot	<b>Feb. 10, MON:</b> Pilot #1 Training
<b>Sep. 24, TUE:</b> Pilot #1 Training	<b>Mar. 4, WED:</b> Pilot #2 Training
<b>Oct. 9, WED:</b> Pilot #1 Discussion & Student Evidence	<b>Apr. 3, FRI:</b> Grade Pilots with Student Evidence
<b>Oct. 23, WED:</b> Pilot #1 Rubric w/ Evidence Submission / Pilot #2 Training	
<b>Nov. 6, WED:</b> Pilot #2 Discussion & Student Evidence	
<b>Nov. 18, MON:</b> Pilot #2 Rubric w/ Evidence Submission	
<b>Dec. 17, TUE:</b> Final Recommendations to District for Adoption	

## CAST Scoring Update:

A Message from the California Department of Education- Assessment Spotlight

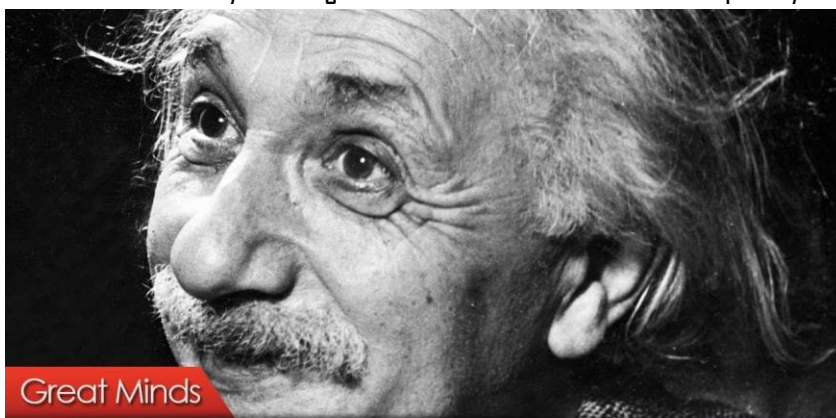
The 2018–19 results for the first operational California Science Test (CAST) and California Alternate Assessment (CAA) for Science field test will be released to LEAs in January 2020—with the CAST scores contingent on the California State Board of Education approving the proposed CAST threshold scores in November 2019.

To prepare for the release of the CAST scores, LEAs and school sites can refer to CAST—Key Messages web page, which will be updated regularly as new information becomes available. In addition, the Reporting Science Assessments Results—2018–19 Time Line provides a tentative time line for LEAs, parents/guardians, and the public to receive the 2018–19 science assessment results. The Science Assessment—Transition to Operational Status provides information about reporting student results for the CAST and the CAA for Science.

Reminder: The reported 2018–19 CAA for Science field test results will be preliminary indicators (i.e., percent correct and indicator categories). Therefore, updates have been made to the Preliminary Indicator Communications Toolkit web page, which provides links to various LEA resources, such as key messages for the CAA for Science, a frequently asked questions web page, and parent/guardian letter templates.

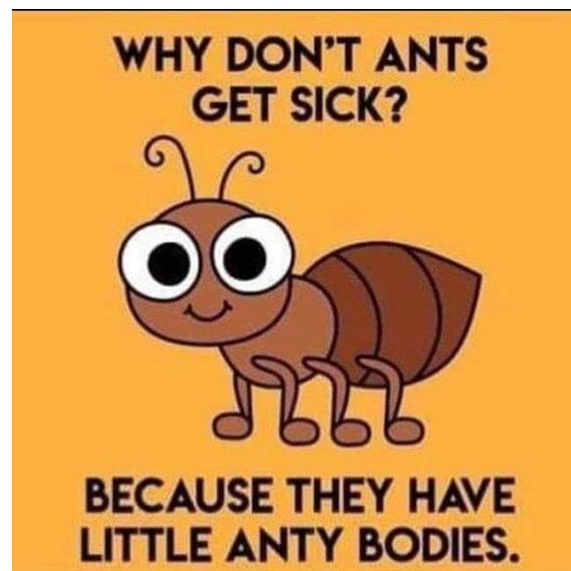
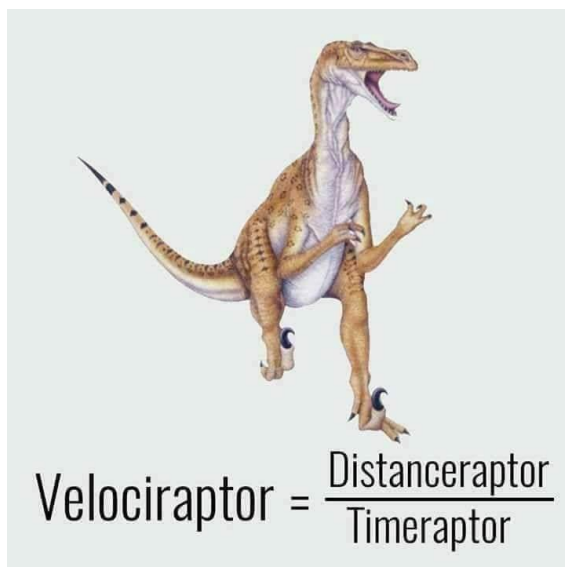
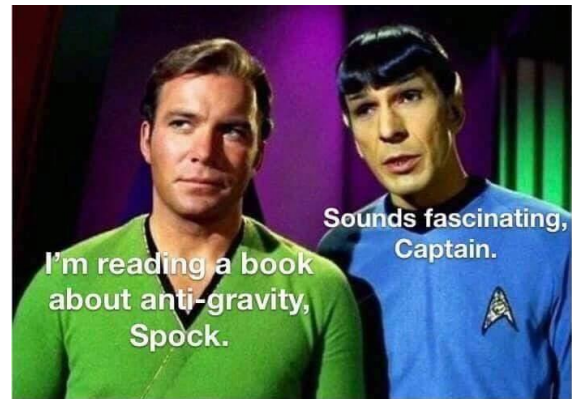
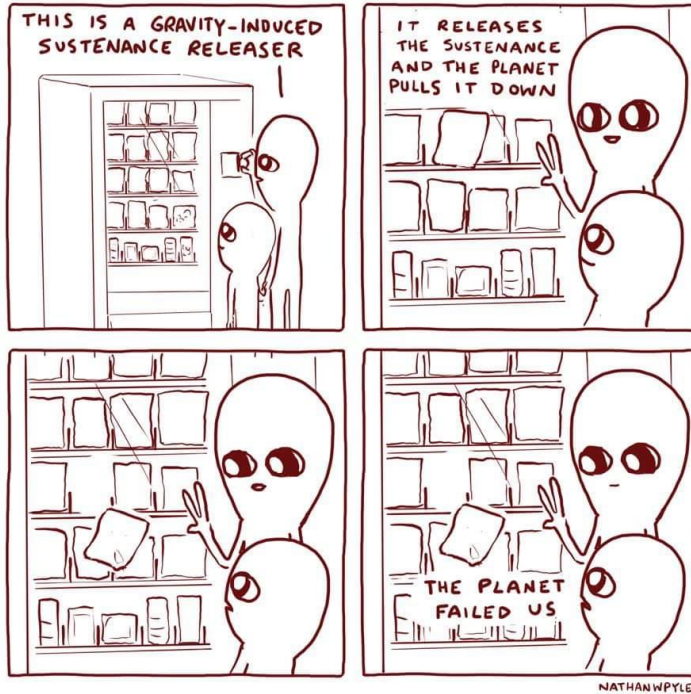
## Open Call for 2019-2020 Article Submissions

Doing something exciting with your students? Have a resource that you want to recommend to other teachers? Did you attend a conference and have some experiences you would like to share? Submit your articles to be included in next school year's issues of Science Monthly.



When asked what was the speed of sound Albert Einstein said: "I do not carry such information in my mind since it is readily available in books. The value of a college education is not the learning of many facts but the training of the mind to think."





Contact and Support

Jackie Gardner: SJUSD NGSS TOSA [jgardner@sanjacinto.k12.ca.us](mailto:jgardner@sanjacinto.k12.ca.us)  
 Website: <https://thefishnerd.weebly.com> Phone: (951) 929 - 7700 ext. 4252