

#MeetOurSTEMAmbassadors



We have so many amazing volunteers and we'd like you meet them!

About me		
Name:	Michael Morris Franks	Photo: 
Location:	London	
Job/course title:	BSc Planetary Studies	
Organisation:	Birkbeck College London	
Fun fact about me:	I have newts in my pond.	
Education/career journey:		
I attended Mill Hill School in London and particularly enjoyed Drama and Science. My father was a lawyer and I followed in his footsteps into a career in law.		
Your current job:		
I am now retired but worked for over 19 years at William Sturges and Co as a Property Lawyer. I am currently doing a BSc at Birkbeck College London in Planetary Studies and Astronomy.		
STEM Ambassador role:		
I'm involved with my local astronomy society and thought becoming a STEM Ambassador would help promote the society. I've given talks on Geology and mass extinctions. I have helped with classroom lessons. The most innovative/creative STEM session I have created is "Roll a Rocket". This involves building paper rockets around film pots and then then filling them with calcium bicarbonate and water. The students were away thrilled as the rockets took off. I think they realised science could be enjoyable and fun. View some of my SlideShare presentations done for schools, as part of my studies and the Astronomy Society etc.		



Nice to get to know you!

Student challenge:

Growth of living plants

Obtain some dry mung beans. Weigh them and record the weight of the beans. Put them in a pot of water. Every day take the beans out of the water dry weigh them and record the weight of the beans. Describe the change in the beans. Once the beans start sprouting measure them and record their length each day. Plot on graphs the change in weight and size each day. Where does the increase in weight and size come from? Can you think of ways to increase the growth of the beans?

Experiment with keeping the beans in a cold environment and in a warm environment. Which environment produce the greatest increase in size and weight? Why do you think this is?



Nice to get to know you!