STEMScopes | Competitor Review

Prepared by Elizabeth Schinazi
Last Edited: 01.29.18

Purpose

As we enter into increasingly competitive marketplaces, including upcoming state adoptions, our Education Consultant team reported the Science Techbook is losing to STEMScopes because of their perceived advantage around ease of use. This review will analyze the STEMScopes product to better understand those perceptions from a design and functionality perspective. The EC team is working on a more in-depth review around the actual curriculum/content offerings. Their analysis and recommendations are being captured here: https://discovery.app.box.com/notes/269933776973

Product Description

STEMScopes is a digital curriculum aligned to the NGSS, as well as state standards, providing digital resources, supplementary print, and professional development.

Program Title	Website	Username	Password
STEMscopes Florida 2.0	https://n11066d146659.acceleratelearning.com	TFL27	FLDOEScience

Initial Impressions

STEMScopes utilizes a very streamlined, open, and light interface. Content is presented in a highly modular way, underscoring the customizable nature of the curriculum-- that assets can be used in a variety ways. Information presentation is very table-of-contents-ish and it's easy to see the curriculum assets available. As most assets are clearly marked with a T (for teacher) or S (for students), the amount of resources geared toward teachers is easily discernible.

PRO
- Clean, Simple Interface. All pages "look" the same making for a cohesive feel.
- System behavior consistent and predictable
  - Links follow standard web convention
  - Every asset and link opens in the same window. Nothing opens in a pop-up

- Each curriculum asset is labeled for instructional use.

CON
- Lack of Imagery and videos.
- Lack of rich text.
- No Breadcrumbing. Very Little "you are here" indications - Easy to get lost in the content
- Heavily Teacher-Focused. Student content organized and presented completely differently.
- Site is not responsive

Key Features
These features set STEMScopes apart from Science Techbook.

Accessibility
Users can easily update display to accommodate a wide range of user needs. These setting can be changed at the site level or page level.

Site Level Settings:

Page-Level Settings

These settings are visible on each page of the scope. Font size can be changed. Text-to-speech can be turned on and played. Users can highlight text as well as take notes. It appears that the "Contents" dropdown contains the "TEI" titles for the page and can be used to anchor link the student/teacher to that specific section.

Lesson Planner

The lesson planner gives teachers access to all product content and place it in a calendar for efficient planning. This tool can be used collaboratively for planning across a curriculum team.

Second Grade
Third Grade
Fourth Grade
Fifth Grade

5.E 5.1, 5.2, and 5.3 Characteristics of the Solar System

5.E 7.1 and 7.2 The Sun and Water Cycle

Home

Standards Correlations	T
Standards Unwrapped	T
Teacher Background	T
Materials List	T
Answer Keys	T
Graphic Organizer	T
Teacher Planning Companion	T

Engage

| Starters | T |
| Engage Teacher Instructions | T |

‹ › **January 2018**   Sample Class ▾   month week list

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Setup Video / Starters	19	20
21	22	23	24 Starters	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

🖨 Print   ⬇ Download   🖨 Share   💾 Save   ✖ Clear All

IN-DEPTH REVIEW

Global Navigation
Global Navigation is present across all pages. Not all site pages fit under one of these pages.

Home
The home page serves as a central hub with a dashboard-like feel, providing teachers with a snapshot view of upcoming lessons and student activity.

Scopes

The core curriculum is all presented in one place in a "scopes" home. This initial view shows everything and teachers can filter by grade or topic with tabs to customized views to help teachers find their way - Recently Viewed, Bookmarks and Notes.

Additional Resources in Scopes
Teacher Toolbox - Scopes that contain teaching tips.
Visual Glossary - Full-Page glossary
STEMcoach in Action - Access to STEMScopes community

Five Es
Inside each scope is a "home" page with overview information, serving as a grounding space for each. The content is organized by the Five Es. These tabs have landing pages that show all the curriculum assets, which are also accessible in the dropdown. Each of

these are clearly labeled with a T or S, depending upon the resources intended audience.

Standards
Browse directly to content by standards.

Standards appear to be tied to curriculum assets directly and are displayed, when available, on each curriculum asset.

a A	☉ ◯	📕	🖌 ▾	☑ ▾		Contents ▾

🔍 **Explore Teacher Guide — Properties of Objects**

Description

In this activity, students observe, record, and sort objects based on

📅	**Add to Planner**
🔖	**Bookmark Element**

Standards (3)	▾
ELD.K12.ELL.SC.1	
SC.K.N 1.4	
SC.K.N 1.5	

Student Guide (Spanish)   ⬇

Assessments

Assessment builder. Teachers can create assessments using pre-populated questions aligned to standards. Teacher can not create assessment questions.

New Assessment

Assessment Name

| | 🔲 |

Filter Questions

Standards

| Any Edition ▾ | | ▾ |

Lessons

| Any Edition ▾ | | ▾ |

Keyword Search | **Tags** | **Topics**

| | | ▾ | | ▾ |

▸ Additional Filters

Available Questions   **Selected Questions**

Students use a fan to push a ball on the floor. How can the students give the ball a bigger push?

Select questions from the left to start building an assessment.

Students

Classroom manager. This is where teachers can create their classrooms, sections, and students.

New Teacher Section

Name

| |

Description

| |

Course number

| |

☐ Archive this teacher section

> **Note:** Archiving a teacher section also hides any related assignments on student dashboards.

Learning resources available

| You can click here to select multiple learning resources to be available to your students   ▾ |

Create this teacher section

Help

Help takes you to a scope populated with help content...similar to our professional Learning Center. The help is actually presented in the same structure as a "scope."

STEMscopes Help

Topic Help   Grade Help

🔖 **Bookmark Scope**

Home ▾ | Curriculum Navigation ▾ | Account Settings ▾ | Teacher Tools ▾ | For Students ▾ | Extras ▾ | Contact ▾ | ≡ All

ℹ️ **Overview**

In this area, you can find answers to common STEMscopes questions along with videos and step-by-step PDF guides to help explain many of the curriculum's features. Content is organized in the following sections:

Curriculum Navigation: Learn the basics of STEMscopes such as how to access content and website navigation.

Account Settings: Need to change your password? Looking for a more customized site experience? Learn more here.

Student View

Student view is different from teacher view. Student View opens directly upon

RECOMMENDATIONS

Discovery education can take a variety of steps to close the gap between STEMScopes perceived ease of use and that of Discovery Education.

- Create more visual consistency between Course/Unit/Concept views (IN PROGRESS)
- Establish consistency throughout whole site (In Progress - COMET)
    - Reduce/Remove extraneous "noise" in the interface
- Streamline administrative views for Teachers (Creating Assignments, Classrooms, viewing results)
- Highlight "curriculum asset" views
    - Elevate Browse by Standards in Techbook

- Elevate Concept Resource Results (may also tie into search improvements)
- Model Lesson adjustments: I know Science team recently made some content adjustments, but we were hindered by CMS limitations. It may help to update the presentation on these to make this more usable/scannable.
- Include more visual graphics to help Teachers visually identify materials. Successful examples from STEM Scopes - the SCOPES Timeline, T and S indicators, Estimated Time
- Highlight Teacher Supports especially at the k-5 level where teachers may be particularly uncertain about their ability to teach science