

# STEMScopes | Competitor Review

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## 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	<a href="https://n11066d146659.acceleratelarning.com">https://n11066d146659.acceleratelarning.com</a>	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 Breadcrumbs. 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:

Home | Planner | Scopes | Standards | Students | Assessments | Help | tf127

## Accessibility Settings

### Font Size

Small | Default | Medium | **Large** | Huge | Massive

### Font Type

Default  Serif

Matter is everywhere. Matter is anything that has mass and takes up space. Matter can be classified by its attributes. There are three different types of matter: solids, liquids, and gases. By looking at the attributes of matter, you can figure out if it is a solid, liquid, or gas.

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### Theme

Default  High Contrast

## 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	19	20
21	22	23	24	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.






### Welcome to STEMscopes Florida 2.0!

Below you will find links to various documents to assist with your review. Simply click the link below to access the information.

- [Virtual Presentation](#)
- [STEMscopes Navigation Guide](#)
- [Florida Standards Correlations](#)
- [Publisher Questionnaires](#)
- [Universal Design for Learning Questionnaires](#)
- [STEMscopes ISBN List](#)
- [Bid Identification Numbers](#)

### Upcoming Lessons




**You don't have any lesson plans yet.**  
Get started creating your first lesson plan!

### Bookmarks

**You don't have any bookmarks yet.**  
Start adding bookmarks by clicking the "Bookmark Scope" or "Bookmark Element" buttons!

### Teacher Sections

**Sample Class**  
1 students



#### Student Games

[Preview our library of games](#) available to your students.  
**Note:** Most games require Adobe Flash.

### Student Activity

No activity yet.

# 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.

The screenshot displays the STEMscopes website interface. At the top, there are four navigation tabs: "All Scopes" (selected), "Recently Viewed", "Bookmarks", and "My Notes". Below the tabs is a search bar with the placeholder text "Search...". To the left of the main content area are three vertical panels: "Teacher Toolbox" with a teal button "Use Teacher Toolbox", "Visual Glossary" with an orange button "Access Visual Glossary", and "STEMcoach In Action" with a blue button "Browse STEMcoach In Action". The main content area features six curriculum scope cards arranged in a 2x3 grid. Each card includes a representative image, a title, a subject, and a grade level range (K-FL).

Scope	Subject	Grade Level
K.P 8.1 Properties of Objects	Physical Science	K-FL
K.P 9.1 Physical Change	Physical Science	K-FL
K.P 10.1 Sound	Physical Science	K-FL
K.P 12.1 and 13.1 Patterns of Movement	Physical Science	K-FL
K.L 14.1 Five Senses	Life Science	K-FL
K.L 14.2 Plant and Animal Characteristics in Literature	Life Science	K-FL

## 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.



## K.P 8.1 Properties of Objects

Topic Physical Science Grade Kindergarten Standards

Home Engage Explore Explain Elaborate Evaluate Intervention Acceleration All

**Engage**

- Engage Teacher Instructions – Anchor Charts
- Starters

**Engage Teacher Instructions**  
An instructor preparation guide for the Engage activity, including materials lists and activity facilitation points. **T**

**Starters**  
A set of ideas and activities that teachers can do to further get students interested in the concept. **T**

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## Standards

Browse directly to content by standards.

Science Next Generation Sunshine State Standards Root Science Next Generation Sunshine State Standards

Science Next Generation Sunshine State Standards > Kindergarten

Kindergarten Grade Level Kindergarten

Science Next Generation Sunshine State Standards > Kindergarten > Nature of Science

Nature of Science Body of Knowledge Nature of Science

Science Next Generation Sunshine State Standards > Kindergarten > Nature of Science > Big Idea1: The Practice of Science

Big Idea1: The Practice of Science Big Idea Big Idea1: The Practice of Science

Science Next Generation Sunshine State Standards > Kindergarten > Nature of Science > Big Idea1: The Practice of Science > SC.K.N 1.1

SC.K.N 1.1 Standard SC.K.N 1.1 Collaborate with a partner to collect information.

**K.L 14.1 Five Senses**  
**T** Explore Teacher Guide

**K.E 5.1 Gravity**  
**T** Explore Teacher Guide

**Teacher Toolbox: Elementary**  
**T** None Nature of Science - Kindergarten →

Science Next Generation Sunshine State Standards > Kindergarten > Nature of Science > Big Idea1: The Practice of Science > SC.K.N 1.2

SC.K.N 1.2 Standard SC.K.N 1.2 Make observations of the natural world and know that they are descriptors collected using the five senses.

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

The screenshot shows a toolbar with icons for text (a, A), comments, print, edit, and a 'Contents' dropdown. Below the toolbar is a magnifying glass icon and the title 'Explore Teacher Guide – Properties of Objects'. A 'Description' section begins with 'In this activity, students observe, record, and sort objects based on'. To the right, a blue 'Add to Planner' button and a 'Bookmark Element' button are visible. A 'Standards (3)' dropdown menu is open, listing 'ELD.K12.ELL.SC.1', 'SC.K.N 1.4', and 'SC.K.N 1.5', with a 'Student Guide (Spanish)' link and a download icon below.

## 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

Lessons

Keyword Search  Tags  Topics

Additional Filters

### Available Questions

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

The diagram shows a ball on the left and a fan on the right on a horizontal surface. Dashed arrows point from the fan towards the ball, representing the force of the air pushing the ball.

### Selected Questions

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

[Create this teacher section](#)

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## 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

[Bookmark Scope](#)

[Topic Help](#) [Grade Help](#)

[Home](#) [Curriculum Navigation](#) [Account Settings](#) [Teacher Tools](#) [For Students](#) [Extras](#) [Contact](#) [All](#)

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**i 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

Assignments	Grades	Learning Resources	Games	My Notes	Visual Glossary	sf02
Search assignments <input type="text"/>						
Clear	Stars	Extra Credit				
Assignment	Due	Status				
Teacher TFL02 > Sample Class						
 <b>Multiple Choice Assessment</b> 3.P 10.3 and 10.4 Light		Assigned				
 <b>Picture Vocabulary</b> 3.L 17.1 Seasonal Adaptations		Assigned				
 <b>Bio Sample</b> Assessments		Assigned				
 <b>Multiple Choice Assessment</b> B.L 18.7, 18.8, 18.9 and 18.10 Photosynthesis and Cellular Respirations		Assigned				
 <b>Engage Student Materials</b> B.L 16.1 and 16.2 Mendel's Law	Jan 22, 2018 3:00 pm	Assigned				

## 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