



Conducting an audit of your STEM curriculum, resources, and activities

How can I see racism, oppression, and anti-Blackness in curriculum and then act toward justice in STEM education?

Audit Overview:

One way to begin seeing and addressing racism, oppression, and anti-Blackness in STEM education is to conduct an audit of your current curriculum, resources, and STEM activities. The questions below can be used to help you begin auditing the current state of your STEM curriculum and point the way toward areas that are in need of change.

Guiding Questions for Audit:

Representation of people, histories, and cultural practices

1. Which people are present and which people are absent from the curriculum, resources, and activities that you typically use? Are global diversities of people represented across the materials?
2. How is the history of STEM activity portrayed in your curriculum, resources, and activities?
 - a. When stories of accomplishments are shared, are they connected to an individual or a team?
 - b. How are stories of harms or consequences of STEM portrayed in your curriculum, resources, and activities?
3. What cultural practices are included and excluded in your curriculum, resources, and activities as examples of STEM interests and pursuits (e.g., family conversations, community engagement, civic participation and activism)?

Relevance of STEM to the questions, concerns, interests, and aims of your school community

1. What are the events, phenomena, and real-world issues that your curriculum, resources, and STEM activities put forward as important for students?
 - a. How, if at all, are these events, phenomena, and real-world issues relevant to the questions, concerns, and interests that *your students* are passionate and curious about?
 - b. What questions, concerns, and interests are part of *your students' and communities' lives* that are not yet present in the curriculum, resources, and STEM activities that you typically use?
2. What aims and purposes of STEM are being put forward by your curriculum, resources, and STEM activities? What aims and purposes are hidden or missing?

Next steps after this initial audit could include:

- **Brainstorm additional questions** to guide further audits of curriculum, resources, and activities.
- **Develop plans to redesign curriculum, resources, and STEM activities** to re-organize STEM education for racial justice.
- **Revise these initial audit questions** to turn attention toward other dimensions of STEM education such as pedagogical practices, stakeholders, and decision-making for STEM education, professional learning opportunities, and school cultures and structures.