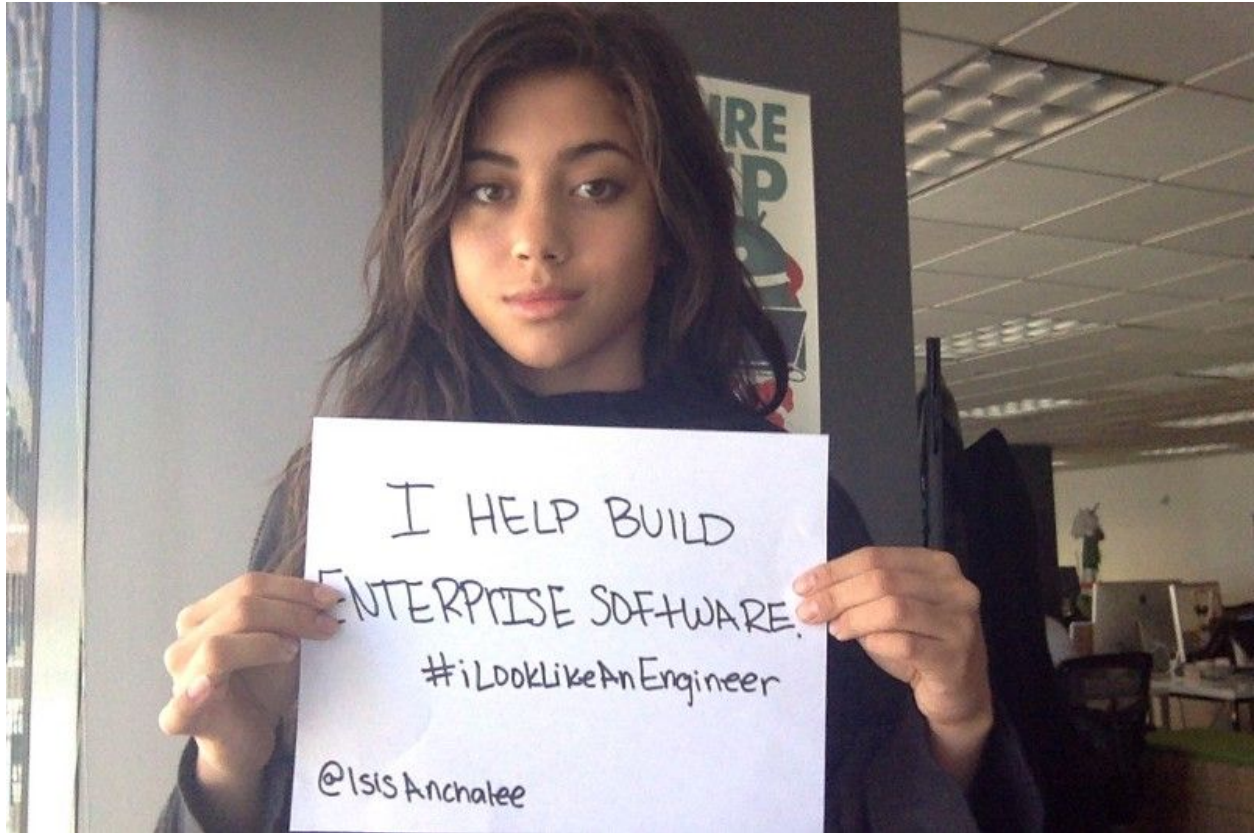


ACTIVITY: “What Does An Engineer Look Like?”



SOURCE: <https://medium.com/the-coffeelicious/you-may-have-seen-my-face-on-bart-8b9561003e0f>

A picture is worth a thousand words -- but that doesn't mean those words are helpful or accurate. Societal stereotypes are often reflected (and reinforced) through the images we are subjected to every day. For example, if most engineering job postings depict white men, it can be tough for someone outside that box -- say a young woman of color -- to feel like she “belongs” in that field.

This activity uses creative commons image search to generate a simple data set of what the Internet suggests a given STEM occupation “looks like,” creating a space for students to discuss how that message may differ from reality.

Grades: 6-12

Time: 30 minutes - 1 hour

Materials: Computer with Internet access, worksheet (included), pen/pencil

Tags: Media Literacy, Data Science, STEM careers, Photography

ACTIVITY: "WHAT DOES AN ENGINEER LOOK LIKE?"

Background

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Instructions

1. Go to <https://search.creativecommons.org/> and enter a STEM job title (example: engineer, coder, chemist, accountant, DJ, etc).
2. Deselect the boxes that say "use for commercial purposes" and "modify, adapt or build upon" (This will allow you to see the largest selection of images).
3. Choose one of the image options (Flickr, Google Images, Pixabay, or Open Clipart Library) and then click the big green search button. You can go back and repeat the search with a different image source to see if you get different results.
4. Look at the first page of results (ALT: look at the first 25 images) and fill out the chart (see next page). Repeat as many times as you like (you may even try the same term using a different image site option)

Discussion

- What trends did you notice about the gender, race, age, and appearance of the images of people in STEM careers?
- Which job(s) had the most diverse images? The least diverse images?
- What do you think this data tells you about how we educate or encourage young people about STEM careers?
- How would you improve diversity in STEM careers? Why?

More Resources For Discussion

A STEM recruitment poster [caused a big stir](#) because it featured a young, attractive woman of color engineer. Critics said that she "didn't look like an engineer," despite the fact that the woman was, in real life, an actual engineer. The controversy inspired a hashtag, #ILookLikeAnEngineer, to show a more diverse representation of people in STEM careers.

After a Nobel Prize-winning Scientist said that "girls" in the lab were distracting because they cry and make men fall in love with them, female scientists launched a social media campaign mocking his sexism and posting [realistic pictures of them in the field](#).

WORKSHEET: "WHAT DOES AN ENGINEER LOOK LIKE?"

Name: _____ Date: _____

Type of job	Image site	Notes on gender	Notes on race/ethnicity	Notes on appearance	Notes on age
<i>(Example: engineer, coder, chemist, professor, accountant, DJ)</i>	<i>(Did you select Google Images, Pixabay, Flickr, or Open Clip Art?)</i>	<i>(What do you notice about the gender of people in the images? Male, female, other? Feminine, masculine, genderqueer, etc?)</i>	<i>(What race(s) or ethnicities do people in the images appear to be? What race(s) or ethnicities are missing?)</i>	<i>(What are people wearing in the images? Do you notice any trends? What accessories or styles do you see?)</i>	<i>(How old do most people seem to be? Teens? 20s and 30s? middle aged? other?)</i>

