

STEAM

LATERAL THINKING  
RIDDLES

# RIDDLE 1

- A chemistry stockroom technician is 188 cm (6'2") tall.  
What does he weigh?

## RIDDLE 2

- A rope ladder is hung over the side of a research vessel in the Bay of Fundy so that the bottom rung just reaches the water. If the rungs are 20 cm apart, how many rungs will be under water when the tide rises 3 m?

# RIDDLE 3

- A research ecologist drank heavily from the punch bowl at a research picnic in the Himalayan Mountains. He left the party early and was surprised to find that all of his team came down with giardiasis (a waterborne disease) the next day, even though nothing was added to the punch after he left and no one had drunk anything since the party. What happened?

# RIDDLE 4

- The younger of two twins celebrates her birthday 2 days before her older twin. How can this be if both twins are celebrating their birthdays on the calendar days on which they were born?

# RIDDLE 5

- A mineralogist examines seven crystals that are identical except that one has slightly less mass than the other six. How can the mineralogist determine which is the smallest crystal using just a double pan balance and only two measurements?

# RIDDLE 6

- Why do civil engineers design round manhole covers rather than square ones?

# RIDDLE 7

- A botanist is growing plants in three sealed, windowless growth chambers, but can't remember which of three light switches controls the light in chamber C, 100 m away. To minimize disturbance to the plants, she can open the chamber only once for 5 seconds. How can she determine which switch controls the light in chamber C?