

About STC Secondary™ Unit Kits for Grades 6-10

Science and Technology Concepts Program-Secondary™ (STC Secondary™) is an inquiry-centered middle school science curriculum developed by the Smithsonian Science Education Center (SSEC), an organization of the Smithsonian Institution. Each STC Secondary unit provides opportunities for students to experience scientific phenomena firsthand. A comprehensive, research-based curriculum, STC Secondary™ is aligned with the National Science Education Standards (NSES) of the National Research Council (NRC).

Each STC Secondary™ unit is based on a four-stage learning cycle that is grounded in educational research and practice:

- First, students **focus** on what they already know about a topic.
- Next, students **explore** a scientific phenomenon or concept, following a well-structured sequence of classroom investigations
- Third, students **reflect** on their observations, record them in journals, draw conclusions, and share their findings with others
- Finally, students **apply** their learning to real-life situations and to other areas of the curriculum.

STC Secondary™ program builds on the skills and knowledge developed in the STC Elementary™ curriculum, with content balanced among the life sciences, earth sciences, physical sciences, and technology. Each module is developed by teachers, scientists, and evaluators and is field-tested in urban, suburban, and rural classrooms nationwide. The materials are professionally evaluated and reviewed by an advisory panel of teachers, scientists, and science educators before publication. For more information please see <http://www.carolinacurriculum.com/stc/secondary/>