

## WHAT IS IT?

STEM Shark Tank is a strategy that I came up with after finding random stuff from the STEM resource center. I group my students into teams and give each group a random thing like Himalayan salt lamp, shoe dryer or humidifier, without telling them what that mystery item is and what it is for. The students are asked to inspect the object and through guided research using books, internet research and a resource person, each team needs to find out the purpose of that random material. Each team develops a plan on how to “sell” their object to the class. During their presentation, each team describes the object, the science behind it and its function to the class who will serve as their customers. The audience is given play money and must be persuaded to buy the product.

# STEM Shark Tank

**PROMISING PRACTICES**



Office of the Maricopa County  
**School Superintendent**  
*Steve Watson*

## IMPACT?

Through this activity, students apply critical thinking and research skills throughout the learning experience. Using the students interest in being an "influencer", business, together with their innate curiosity about things around them, this promising practice created an environment that promotes collaboration and problem solving while having fun.



**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS RESOURCE:**

<https://schoolsup.org/stem-resource-center>