



## Free STEM iPad Apps

- 1) *BrainPOP* by BrainPOP. Daily videos are posted in the areas of science, social studies, English, math, arts & music, health, engineering, and technology. They are animated, with captions and narration. There are some free movies available, and some require a paid subscription. It is geared more towards 4 years old and up.
- 2) *Color Uncovered* by Exploratorium. This app has some relevance for preschoolers in the illusions and experiments that are posted. Much of the information and activities are geared more towards elementary-middle school students.
- 3) *Cut the Rope HD Free* and *Cut the Rope: Experiments HD Free* by ZeptoLab UK Limited. This game involves problem solving, cause and effect, and basic physics skills as the Om Nom tries to get to his candy.
- 4) *Dots for Tots* by SID On. This app is geared towards children ages 2-6. It is a tactile experience as they use their finger to draw from numbered dot to numbered dot, to create shapes and animals. The shapes are identified verbally when they are completed, the animals are not. There are extended versions of this app that can be purchased for \$.99 each.
- 5) *Flow Free* by Big Duck Games LLC. Using your finger as a stylus, the goal is to connect matching colored pipes to create a flow. There are 10 different sized boards, with 300 levels in the free mode of this app.
- 6) *iBird Lite Guide to Birds* by Mitch Waite Group. This app has beautiful photos of birds, as well as the sounds that they make. It has higher level references to facts and regions that birds live in. This is a Lite app that can be upgraded to different versions for \$2.99-\$14.99.
- 7) *Kids Puzzles-African Plains* by GrasshopperApps.com. Photos of animals that are put together as a puzzle make for an engaging activity. Puzzle difficulty can be adjusted from 4-32 pieces. The audio hints can be turned on or off, and can be customized into different languages. This app helps to develop scientific vocabulary, critical thinking, and hand-eye coordination.
- 8) *Kindle* by Barnes & Noble. There are over 950,000 books in the Kindle store to download and read. A good source of nonfiction books.
- 9) *Miss Spider's Tea Party* by Callaway Digital Arts Inc. English, Spanish, French, German & Italian. This charming book has been transformed into a multi-faceted app. The story is read as a book or shown as a video. There are also games to play, puzzles to solve, and pictures to paint. Miss Spider invites numerous insects to dine



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with her, so children will be able to learn insect names and practice counting skills. It is a winner of “Mom’s Choice Award”.

- 10) *PBS Kids Video* by PBS KIDS. This app gives access to over 1,000 PBS Kids videos.
- 11) *Preschool Games-Farm Animals* by *Photo Touch*. GrasshopperApps.com. Children can identify photos of farm animals after being given a verbal cue. The level of difficulty changes as the child is successful in the choices they make. This game can be customized with voice cues, and by inserting your own photos.
- 12) *Space Images for iPad* by Jet Propulsion Laboratory. This app displays stunning pictures of the solar system taken by NASA spacecraft. There are also some short videos to watch. The app works with NASA/JPL’s Space Images website at [www.jpl.nasa.gov/jplimages](http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/jplimages).
- 13) *Things That Go Together* by GrasshopperApps.com. This problem solving game includes over 150 matching pairs that go together. Photos bring a real world application to the game. This app can be customized by changing the voice that gives the audio hints, which can be turned off or on.
- 14) *Toontastic* by Launchpad Toys. An awarding-winning app that develops animation skills and storytelling. It has won: NY Times-Top 10 iPad Apps of 2011, Parent’s Choice-2011 Silver Honor Award, and Children’s Technology Review- 2011 Editor’s Choice. There is some skill training in developing stories that should be supported by an adult before playing.
- 15) *International Children’s Digital Library* by ICDL Foundation. Books from 60 countries around the world have been digitized to read on this app. A website, [www.childrenslibrary.org](http://www.childrenslibrary.org), provides the same materials. Languages from Afrikaans to Yiddish are available.



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