

## **How Montana Defines STEM**

STEM is an acronym for **S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering and **M**athematics. Montana defines Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) as a way of thinking that encourages the integration of strategies and core content from all four disciplines, but also values the particular perspective of thinking and learning embedded within each discipline.

The Montana STEM Initiative encourages STEM thinking that integrates knowledge across all disciplines and includes early and continual development of problem solving, persistence, critical thinking, innovation, collaboration, communication and reasoning. Such integrated knowledge and skills help Montanans to be informed citizens, be stewards of the state's natural resources, improve our social and economic conditions, and compete in the local and global economy.