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Stella's parents brought home their new baby and Stella thinks he might be a duck!

**Ages:** 3 to 6 years**ATOS Level:** 2.5**Lexile:** 500L**ISBN:** 9781452142838**Copyright:** 2020

# My Brother the Duck

*Is Stella's new brother really a duck?*

**What is STEAM?** Learning through Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics. Through STEAM, children problem solve, innovate, create, and collaborate.

**STEAM Topics in this Book:** classification, evidence collection, scientific method

## Activities To Do Together:

Before you read the book with your child:

- Read the title of the book to your child. Ask, "Do you think Stella could have a duck as a little brother?"
- Encourage your child to recall a time when they mistakenly identified one thing for another. What happened?

While reading the book:

- When the word *hypothesis* appears in the story, discuss what this means. One way to explain a hypothesis is that it is an educated guess or a guess based on information you already know. Scientists use experiments to test whether their hypothesis is correct.
- Ask your child why Stella thinks her brother is a duck. What evidence does Stella use to prove her hypothesis?
- Encourage your child to point to the duck-like features in the illustrations that Stella notices.
- Ask your child if they think Drake is a duck? Why or why not?

When you have finished reading the story:

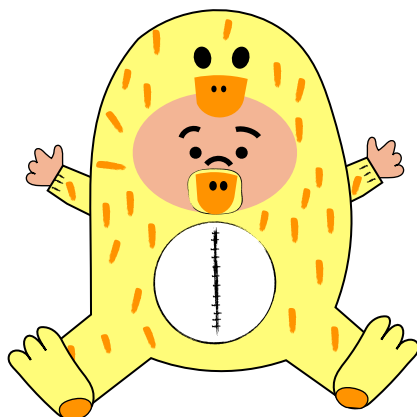
- Ask your child what finally convinced Stella that her brother was not, in fact, a duck.
- Together, investigate what baby animals look like. Do they always look similar to their parents? How are they similar to their parents, how are they different?
- Encourage your child to come up with a hypothesis and design an experiment together to test it. For example, a hypothesis could be: Plants grow better when they are kept moist.

**Questions for STEAM Thinking:**

1. Compare ducks and humans. How are we the same and how are we different?
2. Why do you think Stella thought her new little brother was a duck? What evidence did she consider?
3. How could you convince Stella that her brother could not be a duck? What facts would you use?
4. What do you think Stella meant at the end of the book when she said, "Stella Wells, fledgeling scientist, had another hypothesis to test."?
5. What hypothesis would you like to test? How would you test it?

**Early Math Project Resources:**

Visit [My Brother the Duck](https://countplayexplore.org/book/my-brother-the-duck) ([countplayexplore.org/book/my-brother-the-duck](https://countplayexplore.org/book/my-brother-the-duck)) to find activities and related California Learning Foundations, Mathematics Standards, and/or Next Generation Science Standards for this book.

**Vocabulary****STEAM words found**

**in the story:** drake, evidence, fact, first, hypothesis, inconclusive, notice, prove, research, scientist, second, test

**Related STEAM**

**words:** categorize, characteristics, offspring

**Words to build reading****comprehension:**

bassinet, bill, broad-billed, bundle, conceded, ducklings, erupt, expert, flair, fledgling, guess, incredible, noteworthy, obviously, odd, scrawny, squawking, unacceptable, waddling, webbed, wing it

**Related Books:** *Ada*

*Twist, Scientist* by Andrea Beaty

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