



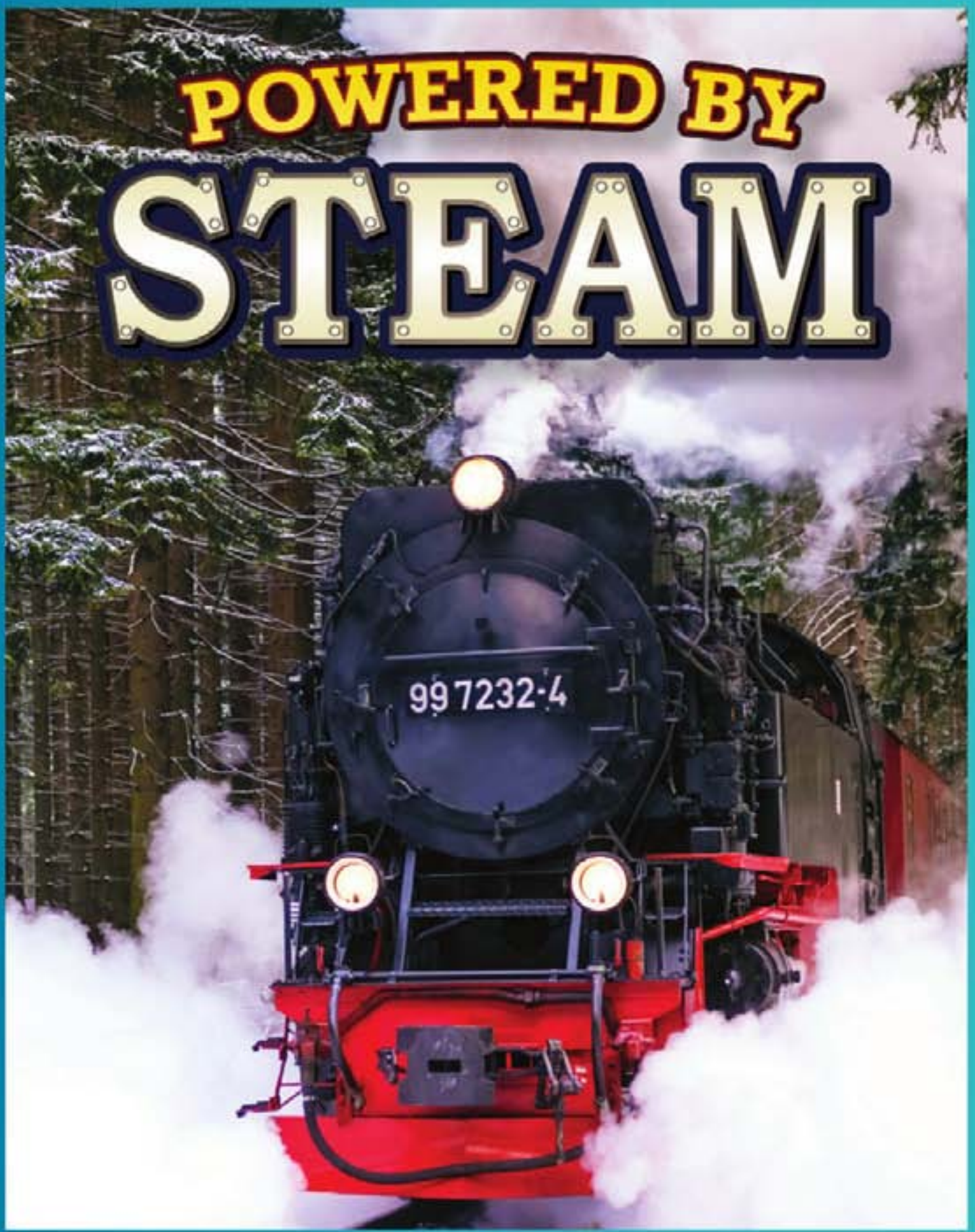
Smithsonian

POWERED BY STEAM



Kristy Stark

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Kristy Stark, M.A.Ed.

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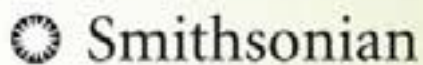
Publishing Credits

Rachelle Cracchiolo, M.S.Ed., *Publisher*
Conni Medina, M.A.Ed., *Managing Editor*
Diana Kenney, M.A.Ed., NBCT, *Series Developer*
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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Stark, Kristy, author.
Title: Powered by steam / Kristy Stark.
Description: Huntington Beach, CA : Teacher Created Materials, Inc., [2019] | Includes index. | Audience: Grades 4 to 6. |
Identifiers: LCCN 2018005253 (print) | LCCN 2018013533 (ebook) | ISBN 9781493869343 (E-book) | ISBN 9781493866946 (pbk.)
Subjects: LCSH: Steam-engines--Juvenile literature. | Steam--Juvenile literature.
Classification: LCC TJ467 (ebook) | LCC TJ467 .S73 2019 (print) | DDC 621.1--dc23
LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2018005253>



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Teacher Created Materials

5301 Oceanus Drive
Huntington Beach, CA 92649-1030
www.tcmpub.com

ISBN 978-0-7439-2161-9

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Simple Things, Big Changes

People use devices and tools that make life easier. Computers and smartphones have changed the way people live. Technology has made our lives easier in many ways. But technology needs power.

Early technology was powered by people. Later, animals were used. But, the amount of power they produced was limited. In the late 1600s, scientists and engineers found that steam could be used to power new technology.



A family uses technology to talk to each other.

Doctors use technology like this tablet to help them do their job.



Steam is the **gaseous** form of water. It is made when water boils. This happens at 100° Celsius (212° Fahrenheit) at sea level. A lot of energy is produced when water turns to steam. People found that this energy could be stored and used to power machines and devices.

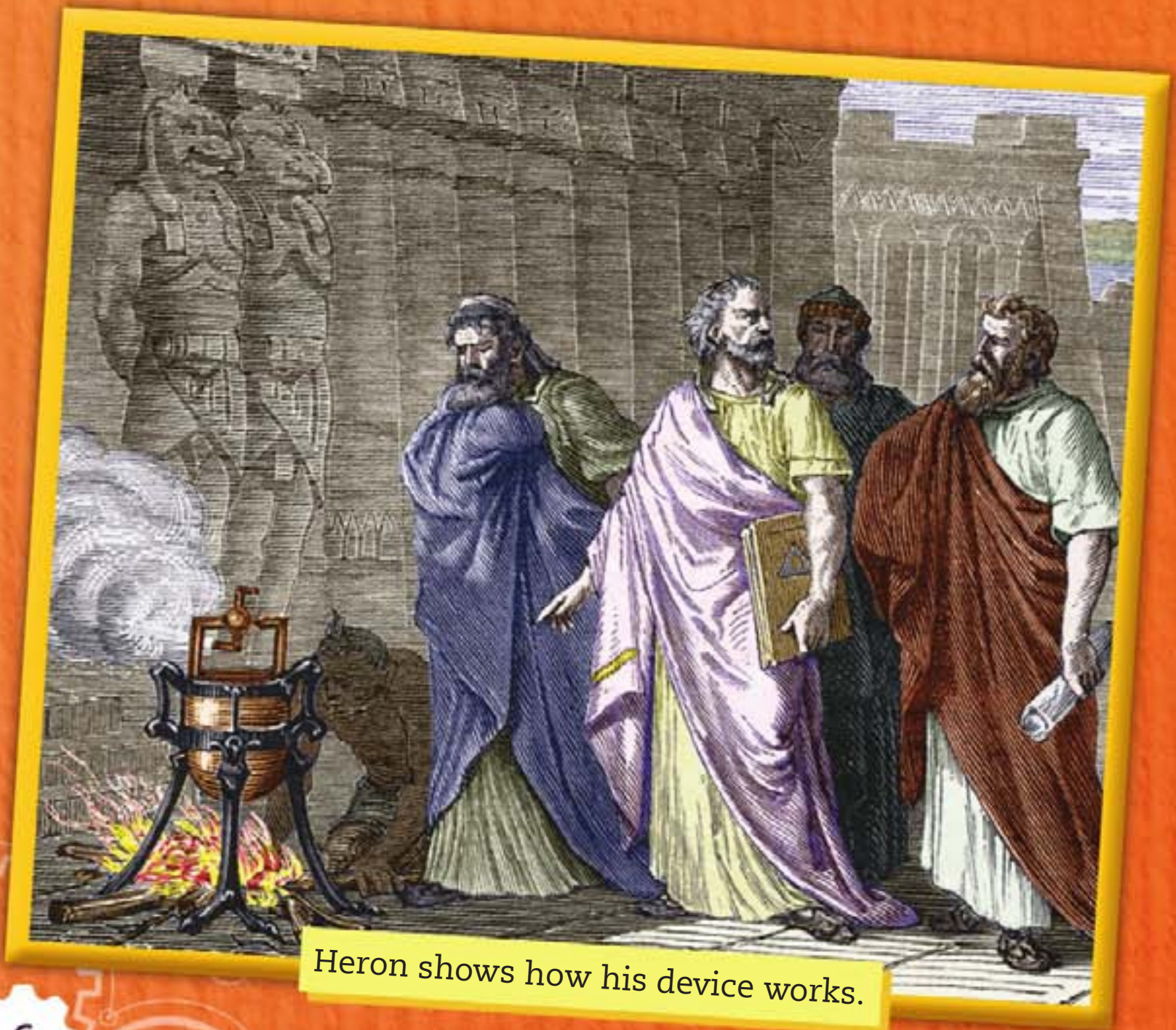


Water is made when two hydrogen **atoms** and one oxygen atom combine. That is why it is referred to as H₂O!

Steam Power Pioneers

Steam power has been used for a long time. In fact, it was used in the first century. Heron of Alexandria made a device that used steam to turn a sphere. But his device did not do much more than that. It served as a toy to amuse his friends.

There was a lot of progress in steam engineering in the seventeenth century. Many people were drawn to science. They developed new **theories** and tested their ideas.



Heron shows how his device works.

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