Here are some of the STEAM lessons that educators can incorporate into language arts, career, even music classes as cross-disciplinary units:

**Insect poetry**. Read one of the poems from *Insectlopedia* by Douglas Florian to students and ask them to guess the insect or adaptations hinted at in the poem. It’s a literary way to slide into curiosity.

**Readers' theater**. Share a small plant or seed germination sample. Kids work in groups to develop actions to correspond with assigned vocabulary words. For example, if they hear “the seed was a patient seed, it waited for the spring rain that would water it,” the group who was given the word *water* might chant: "Water, water, cool, clean water," and display a hand motion to mimic the movement of flowing water. Students learn the needs of plants via acting skills.

"Life is integrated so we need to be sure we fit STEAM in there," Davidson-Taylor says.

**How far food has traveled/food miles**. Determining where each menu item on the cafeteria tray came from is rife with STEM possibilities. This lesson incorporates geography, biodiversity and sustainability. It also appeals to students’ sense of consumerism and economics as they explore what they could buy local versus buying something grown in out of state or even out of the country. (Even a restaurant and hospitality program in Vermont used this lesson as part of a career program).

**Healing plants.** Experts can explain how plants are involved in human health and lead classroom discussions on how plants can bolster the immune system to prevent illnesses and diseases as well as treat them.