



Curriculum resource module

Year 2

Little Red Hen's robot friend

Acknowledgements

The STEM Learning Project is funded by the Western Australian Department of Education (the Department) and implemented by a consortium in STEM education comprising the Educational Computing Association of Western Australia, the Mathematical Association of Western Australia, the Science Teachers Association of Western Australia and Scitech.

We acknowledge and thank the teachers and schools who are the co-creators of these resources.

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The STEM Learning Project

The aim of the STEM Learning Project is to generate students' interest, enjoyment and engagement with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and to encourage their ongoing participation in STEM both at school and in subsequent careers. The curriculum resources will support teachers to implement and extend the Western Australian Curriculum and develop the general capabilities across Kindergarten to Year 12.

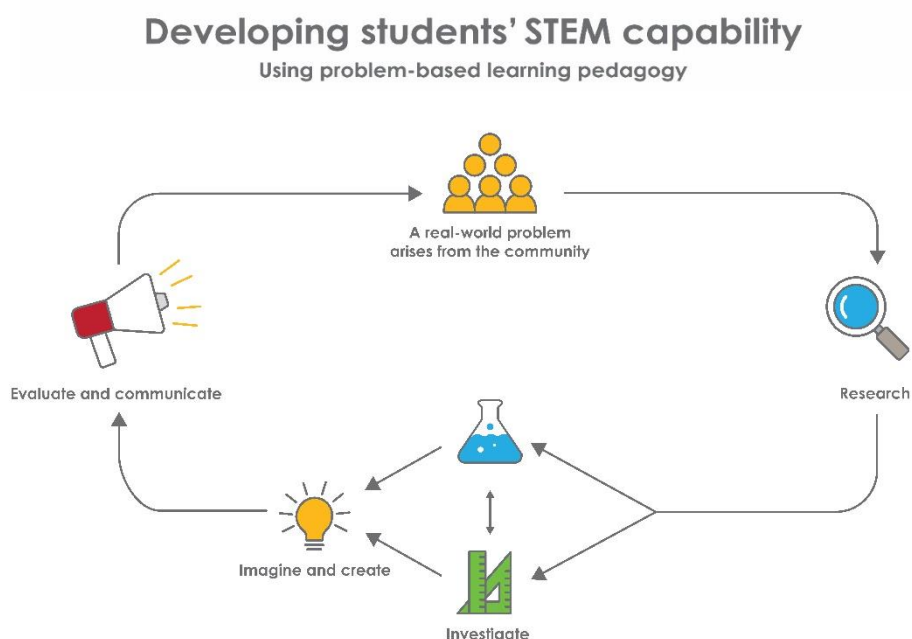
Why STEM?

A quality STEM education will develop the knowledge and intellectual skills to drive the innovation required to address global economic, social and environmental challenges.

STEM capability is the key to navigating the employment landscape changed by globalisation and digital disruption. Routine manual and cognitive jobs are in decline whilst non-routine cognitive jobs are growing strongly in Australia. Seventy-five per cent of the jobs in the emerging economy will require critical and creative thinking and problem solving, supported by skills of collaboration, teamwork and literacy in mathematics, science and technology. This is what we call STEM capability. The vision is to respond to the challenges of today and tomorrow by preparing students for a world that requires multidisciplinary STEM thinking and capability.

The approach

STEM capabilities are developed when students are challenged to solve open-ended, real-world problems that engage students in the processes of the STEM disciplines.



Year 2 – Little Red Hen’s robot friend

Overview

This module focuses on the impact of technology, particularly robots, on our everyday lives. Based on the folktale *The Little Red Hen*, students are encouraged to create their own automated solution to help the Little Red Hen carry her wheat.

What is the context?

Robots and machines help us in our everyday lives. They are useful for repetitive routine tasks, when a task requires super-human strength or great precision. Robots are also useful in situations that may be dangerous to humans such as underwater and in outer space.

What is the problem?

How can robots help us?

How does this module support integration of the STEM disciplines?

Science

Push and pull forces are explored through play-based investigations and design processes are followed as students create their solutions (ACSSU033). Science conceptual understandings are developed as students redesign and refine their robot attachment. Students research and describe how robots are used to help people in their everyday lives (ACSHE035).

Technology

Students use Information and communication technology (ICT) to communicate and justify their design solution. Working collaboratively (WATPPS15), students collect data to evaluate the success of their design (WATPPS14) and communicate results through a choice of digital or non-digital formats (ACTDIP003, WATPPS12). Students engage in the Technologies curriculum when programming their robots to follow a set route and describe how forces create movement in objects (ACTDEK002).

The [Design process guide](#) is included as a resource to aid teachers in understanding the complete design process as developed in the Technologies curriculum.

Mathematics

Mathematics is used when students identify two-dimensional figures and three-dimensional objects during the investigation (ACMMG043). They use balance scales to measure the mass of the bag of wheat or flour their robot attachment will push or pull (ACMMG038). Students identify half and quarter turns when programming their robot and also investigate the use of slides, flips and turns to move across a grid and locate cells (ACMMG045, ACMMG046).

General capabilities


The following opportunities are presented for the development of the general capabilities and the cross-curriculum priorities as students work on *Little Red Hen's robot friend*. Students:

- Develop critical thinking skills as they research the problem and its context (*Activity 1*); investigate parameters impacting on the problem (*Activity 2*); imagine and develop solutions (*Activity 3*); and evaluate and communicate their solutions to an audience (*Activity 4*).
 - Utilise creative thinking as they generate possible design solutions; and critical thinking, numeracy skills and ethical understanding as they choose between alternative approaches to solving the problem.
 - Utilise personal and social capability throughout the module as they develop socially cohesive and effective working teams; collaborate in generating solutions; adopt group roles; and reflect on their group work capabilities.
 - Utilise a range of literacies and information and communication technology (ICT) capabilities as they collate records of work completed throughout the module in a journal and represent and communicate their solutions to an audience using digital technologies in *Activity 4*.
-

What are the pedagogical principles of the STEM learning modules?

The STEM Learning Project modules develop STEM capabilities by challenging students to solve real-world problems set in authentic contexts. The problems engage students in the STEM disciplines and provide opportunities for developing higher order thinking and reasoning, and the general capabilities of creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration.

The design of the modules is based on four pedagogical principles:

- **Problem-based learning**
All modules are designed around students solving an open-ended, real-world problem. Learning supported through a four-phase instructional model: research the problem and its context; investigate the parameters impacting on the problem; design and develop solutions to the problem; and evaluate and communicate solutions to an authentic audience.
- **Developing higher order thinking**
Opportunities are created for higher order thinking and reasoning through questioning and discourse that elicits students' thinking, prompts and scaffolds explanations, and requires students to justify their claims. Opportunities for making reasoning visible through discourse are highlighted in the modules with the icon shown here. 
- **Collaborative learning**
This provides opportunities for students to develop teamwork and leadership skills, challenge each other's ideas, and co-construct explanations and solutions. Information that can support teachers with aspects of collaborative learning is included in the resource sheets.
- **Reflective practice**
Recording observations, ideas and one's reflections on the learning experiences in some form of journal fosters deeper engagement and metacognitive awareness of what is being learnt. Information that can support teachers with journaling is included in the resource sheets.

These pedagogical principles can be explored further in the STEM Learning Project online professional learning modules located in Connect Resources.



Activity sequence and purpose

Activity 1



RESEARCH

Students' interest in robots is captured through research about ways in which robots can help people.

Students are introduced to the story *The Little Red Hen* and brainstorm ideas about how robots could help the Little Red Hen.

Robots

Activity 2



INVESTIGATE

Through play, students investigate toys that use push or pull mechanisms. They experiment with three-dimensional objects, explore how they move and decide which ones move best.

Students sequence the story and program robots to follow the Little Red Hen's journey.

Forces, shapes and programming

Activity 3



IMAGINE & CREATE

Students work collaboratively to design an attachment for a robot to help the Little Red Hen. They are guided through the design process of ideation, development and production.

Design an attachment

Activity 4



EVALUATE & COMMUNICATE

Students evaluate the success of their robot attachment against a set of criteria.

Students communicate their findings and justify their design choices to their peers and, where possible, a wider audience.

Share results

Background

Expected learning	<p>Students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe how science is used in everyday life and how robots help people. 2. Identify two-dimensional figures and three-dimensional objects. 3. Measure material to make a bag and compare the masses of the bags using balance scales. 4. Identify and describe half and quarter turns when programming. 5. Describe how push or pull forces affect how objects are moved over a distance. 6. Discuss how forces applied by the robot create movement in the attachment. 7. Develop, communicate and discuss design ideas through describing, drawing or modelling. 8. Work collaboratively to organise information and ideas. 9. Use criteria to evaluate the success of design processes and solutions. 10. Use digital technology to record a reflection of the design process.
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Vocabulary	<p>This module uses subject-specific terminology. The following list contains vocabulary that need to be understood, either before the module commences or as they are used.</p> <p>balance scales, criteria, force, grid reference, half, machine, map, mass, movement, program, pull, push, quarter, robot, sequence, slide, three-dimensional, turn, two-dimensional</p>
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Timing	<p>There is no prescribed duration for this module. The module is designed to be flexible enough for teachers to adapt. Activities do not equate to lessons; one activity may require more than one lesson to implement.</p>
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Consumable materials	<p>A Materials list is provided for this module. The list outlines materials outside of normal classroom equipment that will be needed to complete the activities.</p>
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Safety notes	<p>There are potential hazards inherent in these activities and with the equipment being used, and a plan to mitigate risks will be required.</p>
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Potential hazards specific to this module include, but are not limited to:

- Online safety and digital citizenship
- Trip hazards.

Assessment

The STEM modules have been developed to provide students with learning experiences to solve authentic real-world problems using science, technology, engineering and mathematics capabilities. Appendix 1 indicates how the activities are linked to the Western Australian Curriculum.

While working through the module, the following assessment opportunities will arise:

- Anecdotal records of observations
- Justification of material choices and design aspects
- Records of conversations and activities demonstrating understanding and reasoning of the following mathematical concepts; flips, turns, slides, measuring, weighing, two-dimensional figures and three-dimensional objects
- Student presentations in *Activity 4* which have a cross curricular link to literacy, speaking and listening.

Evidence of learning from journaling, presentations and anecdotal notes from this module can contribute towards the larger body of evidence gathered throughout a teaching period and can be used to make on-balance judgements about the quality of learning demonstrated by the students in the Science, Technologies and Mathematics learning areas.

Students develop the general capabilities of Information and communication technology (ICT) capability, Critical and creative thinking and Personal and social capability. Continuums for these are included in the [General capabilities continuums](#) but are not intended to be for assessment purposes.

Activity 1: Robots

Activity focus



Students' interest in robots is captured through research about the ways by which robots can help people.

Students are introduced to the story *The Little Red Hen* and brainstorm how robots could help the Little Red Hen carry her load.

Background information

A robot is a machine that can be programmed (told what to do). Some robots can work by themselves, other robots are controlled by people. Robots have sensors which enable them to detect and respond to changes (eg change in temperature, light levels or sound).

Robots can be used to do jobs humans can't do (eg jobs that require super strength such as heavy lifting or jobs that are dangerous like investigating the depths of the ocean) or jobs humans prefer not to do (eg boring, repetitive jobs).

An example of this is *Hadrianx*, a robot that can lay bricks and build a house (www.fbr.com.au).

Instructional procedures

In this module robots are programmed to follow a route. Any of the robots from the technology kit provided by the Department of Education can be used for this activity as well as *Sphero*, *Dash and Dot*, *Edison* or *Bee-Bots*.

For further information on how to use and program these robots see:

Edison – meettedison.com/robotics-lesson-plans

Dash and Dot – teachers.makewonder.com

Sphero – tickleapp.com

I see, I think, I wonder is a thinking routine which is used in this activity and develops visual literacy. It encourages students to make careful observations and thoughtful interpretations, stimulating curiosity and inquiry. See [Student resource sheet 1.4: I see, I think, I wonder](#).

Students work in small groups of three or four for the activities. Mixed ability groups encourage peer tutoring and collaboration in problem solving. Collaboration is an important STEM capability. See [Teacher resource sheet 1.1: Cooperative learning – Roles](#).

Expected learning Students will be able to:

1. Describe how science is used in everyday life, in particular, ways in which robots help people (Science).

Equipment required **For the class:**

The Little Red Hen picture book (see *Digital and Literary resources*).

For the students:

Devices for research

Preparation Inform parents about the STEM project students will be undertaking and invite them into the classroom to assist. See [Teacher resource sheet 1.5: Sample parent letter](#).

Prepare the necessary resource sheets for students.

Choose a variety of images of robots for the class to view, print these out and place them around the classroom. Information about robots can be found on the All On Robots website www.allonrobots.com/types-of-robots.html.

Activity parts **Part 1: Robot research**

To stimulate and engage students in the topic, play a segment of a TV show or movie that includes robots or read a book about robots (see *Digital and Literary resources*).

Initiate a class discussion to activate prior knowledge about robots. Record student ideas as a class brainstorm and ensure this is kept somewhere visible throughout the STEM activities. Ask students:



- What are robots?
- What do we use robots for? Why?

Place printed pictures of robots around the room. There should be enough so no more than four students are using each picture at a time (there can be doubles of pictures). Distribute [Student resource sheet 1.4: I see, I think, I wonder](#), one per pair. Ask students to move to the image of the robot that interests them most and work together to complete the resource sheet. Student thinking can be prompted with questioning:

- What do you see when you look at this image?
- What are you thinking about as you look at this image? Why?
- What are your wonderings about the image (questions)?

As a class, discuss student wonderings and predict possible answers. A think-pair-share activity ([see Teacher resource sheet 1.3: Cooperative learning – Think, Pair, Share](#)) prior to a class discussion may encourage a greater range of responses.

Part 2: Investigate robots

Students investigate the types and roles of robots using digital devices and books from the class library. See *Digital resources* for links which can be loaded into *Connect* for easy access by students.

Students work in small groups to record and discuss findings using [Teacher resource sheet 1.2: Cooperative learning – Placemat](#).

Facilitate a class discussion for students to share their learning and hang placemat worksheets in a place visible to all students.

Part 3: Robot definition

Watch the *SciShow* video [Real-Life Robots](#) (see *Digital resources*) to provide context for this activity part and to add to the students' knowledge.

Create a class definition for the term *robot*. The way this is developed and recorded will be unique to the class; however, a consensus-forming strategy will need to be followed. For example, common ideas from the placemat activity in *Part 2* could be used as a foundation for the definition. Or, a class brainstorm could be used to record ideas. It is a good idea to revisit the definition as it may evolve over the next few activities.

Digital options such as *Padlet* or an interactive whiteboard could be used to record class definitions.

Part 4: How robots can help

Read the story *The Little Red Hen* to the class. Discuss how the Little Red Hen moved the wheat to the mill and how she took her flour home. Ask the students:



- How could the Little Red Hen move her load in an easier way?

Brainstorm ideas using an app such as *Padlet*, a large sheet of paper or an interactive whiteboard.

Explain that in the next activities students will design and develop their own attachments for a robot that will help the Little Red Hen move her load.

Part 5: Reflective journal

Using words or pictures, students record what they have learnt about robots. Students reflect about two things they have learnt and note one question they have about robots. See [Reflective journal](#) for elaborations on journaling.

Resource sheets

[Teacher resource sheet 1.1: Cooperative learning – Roles](#)

[Teacher resource sheet 1.2: Cooperative learning – Placemat.](#)

[Teacher resource sheet 1.3: Cooperative learning – Think, Pair, Share](#)

[Student resource sheet 1.4: I see, I think, I wonder](#)

[Teacher resource sheet 1.5: Sample parent letter](#)

[Reflective journal](#)

Digital resources

Fable: The Little Red Hen from Speakaboos (HOMER, 2010)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=smspKuKqf5c

Real-Life Robots (SciShow Kids, 2015)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wHJjLMnikU

YouTube channels

Boston Dynamics (Boston Dynamics, 2018)
www.youtube.com/user/BostonDynamics

Series of videos of cutting-edge real-life robots developed by Boston Dynamics to carry equipment over rough terrain. Check out Big Dog and Atlas.

Movies

WALL-E (Pixar, 2008) Rating: G. The main character is a robot who cleans up Earth, which was left in ruin by humans.

movies.disney.com.au/wall-e

Big Hero 6 (Disney, 2014) Rating: PG. The main character builds a robot called Baymax who helps heal sick people.

movies.disney.com.au/big-hero-6

Robots (Blue Sky Studios, 2005) Rating: G. All of the characters in this movie are robots

blueskystudios.com/films/robots/

Flubber (Disney, 1997) Rating: G. The main character's assistant is a robot called Weebo.

Literary resources

The Little Red Hen – An Old Story (Margot Zemach, 1983)

The Little Red Hen is an old folk tale. The story teaches children the virtues of work ethic and personal initiative.

Robots Slither (Ryan Ann Hunter, 2004)

A picture book about what robots can do, where they are used in our lives and potential future uses.

Boy and Bot Ame Dyckman, 2012)

A picture book about the friendship between a boy and a robot that explains their different needs.

Clink (Kelly DiPucchio, 2011)

A picture book about an outdated robot looking for a home.

Oh No!: Or How My Science Project Destroyed the World (Mac Barnett, 2010)

A picture book about a robot gone wrong and one girl's mission to stop her science project from destroying the city.

Nick and Tesla's Robot Army Rampage: A Mystery with Hoverbots, Bristle bots, and Other Robots You Can Build Yourself ('Science Bob' Pflugfelder and Steve Hockensmith, 2014)

A chapter book including instructions for real robots you can build yourself from simple, easy-to-find equipment.

A Curious Robot on Mars (James Duffett-Smith, 2013)

A picture book story about the Curiosity rover on Mars.

Robot Zombie Frankenstein (Annette Simon, 2012)

Silly picture book about robots and 2D shapes.

**ICT Professionals –
Incursions**

Scientists in Schools (CSIRO, 2018)

www.csiro.au/en/Education/Programs/STEM-Professionals-in-Schools

A free national program run by the CSIRO. You can register your school to build a relationship with a scientist, mathematician or ICT professional.

Activity 2: Forces and shapes

Activity focus



Through play, students investigate toys that use push or pull mechanisms. They experiment with three-dimensional objects, exploring how they move and deciding which ones move best.

Students sequence the story and program robots to follow the Little Red Hen's journey.

Background information

Push and pull forces can change the motion of an object (ie start or stop an object moving or change the speed or direction of an object) or change the shape of an object (ie flatten or stretch the object). Push and pull forces are usually represented in diagrams as an arrow pointing in the direction in which the force is acting.

Heavy objects are often moved by sliding them across the floor or by rolling them. Movement of objects is opposed by the force of friction. Friction is far less when objects roll than when they slide; therefore, smaller forces can move a rolling object than a sliding object of the same mass. Round objects with smooth surfaces are easily moved by rolling.

In this activity students develop programming and debugging skills while developing mathematical concepts of slides, flips, turns and directional language.

In *Part 5* of this activity there is an option for students to bake bread. If this option is chosen, the links below can be visited to develop Indigenous cultural understandings:

Food culture: Aboriginal bread (Australian Museum, 2014)
australianmuseum.net.au/blogpost/science/food-culture-aboriginal-bread

The world's first baker: Australian Indigenous innovation (ReNew, 2016)
renew.org.au/articles/the-worlds-first-baker-australian-indigenous-innovation

Instructional procedures

Parent help may be necessary when students are designing and making their bag to hold the wheat or flour. Students will develop cutting, sewing, measuring and weighing skills.

If the class is to bake bread, as suggested in *Part 5* as an optional activity, parent or buddy class help may be required. As an opportunity to develop relationships with the local community, members from a local retirement village may be invited to assist.

Expected learning

Students will be able to:

1. Distinguish between two-dimensional figures and three-dimensional objects and identify common geometric shapes (Mathematics).
 2. Compare masses of their bags of wheat using balance scales (Mathematics).
 3. Describe the effect of a push or pull on the movement of objects (Science).
 4. Make, test and evaluate a prediction (Science).
-

Equipment required For the class:

Collected items as well as two-dimensional figures and three-dimensional objects to investigate

Timer

Measuring tools including rulers and scales

Small bucket or wheelbarrow

Fabric

Needles and thread

A2 paper

A range of toys that use push or pull forces

Hula hoops

Sticky notes or mini whiteboards

Robots and devices

Preparation

Ensure there is enough space for students to work when sorting and classifying shapes.

Ensure robots and devices are charged.

Pre-draw grids on A3 paper and photocopy them.

Organise parent help.

If students are undertaking the cooking activity you will need to source resources, time and adult help as outlined in the activity.

Activity parts**Part 1: Sorting shapes and objects**

Working in small groups of three or four, students sort the collected items by shape.

Use questioning to guide students through the process:



- What is the difference between two-dimensional figures and three-dimensional objects?
- Can you sort the shapes and objects? How could you sort them?
- What shapes are the objects?
- What shapes do you know?
- Which shapes are new/ don't you know?
- Are the shapes two-dimensional or three-dimensional? Explain that a three-dimensional object can be made up of several two-dimensional shapes.
- What makes these objects the same? What makes them different? Why?
- Which shapes, and objects do we have the most of?

Encourage students to classify items according to their own criteria (eg shape, material, size, number of sides or corners). Hula hoops or chalk drawings can be used to create classification spaces and Venn diagrams.

Part 2: Pushing, pulling, lifting or carrying

Engage students in play using different moving toys that can be pushed or pulled or that can lift or carry (eg trains, cars, construction vehicles, sandpit toys, Lego, boomerangs, kites, hoops, and wheel barrows).

Students should participate in play activities that enable them to experience the effect of a range of different forces.



Forces applied to moving objects can cause changes to the speed and direction of the motion. The direction of a force applied to a toy will affect the direction of the motion of the toy. For example, if the students apply a push or a pull force to a stationary toy, the push or pull, if large enough, will cause the toy to move in the direction of the push or the pull.

If the toy is already in motion, and the students apply a push or a pull force in the same direction as the existing motion, the toy will continue to move in that direction, and if the force is large enough, the toy will move faster. If students apply a push or a pull force to a toy in a direction that is

opposite to, or at an angle to, the existing motion of the toy, the push or pull force, if large enough, will change the direction of the toy's motion and may also change the speed of the toy or stop its motion altogether.

Forces can also change the shape of an object, for example, when a lump of clay is squeezed, when clothes bend with your body, when you bounce a ball (the wall of the ball is temporarily compressed) or when you brush your hair. Any force applied to any object will subtly change the objects shape.

Using a think-pair-share strategy ([Teacher resource sheet 1.3: Cooperative learning Think, Pair, Share](#)) review students' experiences with the toys to develop their understanding of push and pull forces and directions of movement.

- How did the toys move?
- Why did the toys move?
- How could you make a toy move towards you?
- How could you move a toy away from you?

What would happen if...

- The size of the toy changed?
- The size of the push changed?
- The surface changed (rough, smooth, oily)?
- The wheels changed? Or, there were no wheels?

Select some flat surfaced shapes (eg cubes, rectangular prisms such as 2 L milk cartons), some cylinders (eg paper towel rolls) and some spheres (eg balls) and have students use the Question, Predict, Test, Observe, Evaluate (QPTOE) strategy, in the example below, to investigate how easily each shape can be moved:



Question: Which shape is the easiest to move?

Predict: Which shape will be the easiest to move?

Test: Push and pull each object.

Observe: Which shapes were easy to move?

Evaluate: Were our predictions correct? Which shape was easiest to move? Why?

Part 3: Moving objects

Facilitate a class discussion to determine students' prior knowledge about how large objects or lots of objects can be moved. Model moving a range of blocks into a basket, first one at a time then carrying two or more. Time how long each trial takes. Encourage the class to join in by counting.

Discuss the two methods of transferring the blocks and come to consensus on the most efficient method. Could a robot help?

Remind students about *The Little Red Hen* story. Discuss how the Little Red Hen moved the wheat to the mill and took her flour home. Ask students:



- Could the Little Red Hen use robots to help her move her wheat? How?

Explain to the students that in the following activities they will program a robot to follow the sequence of the story and design and build a solution to help the Little Red Hen carry her load.

Part 4: Making a map

In this part, students draw pictures to represent the parts of the story, place them on a grid and program a robot to follow the story in the correct sequence. Students investigate the nature of the load and the nature of the attachment used for the robot to carry the load.

Create a simple 4x5 grid with each cell measuring 15 cm by 15 cm. These dimensions for the grid will work well for *Dash and dot* and *Bee-Bot* robots. These robots move in 15 cm steps, an ideal grid to fit on an A2 sheet (two A3 sheets). Prepare one A2 grid for each group of students. It may be best to laminate the grid or find a sheet of thick plastic to tape over the top for protection.

Sequencing the story

Identify the main events in the story. Ask students:

- Where did the Little Red Hen start?
- Where did the Little Red Hen go? Why did she go there?
- What did she see along the way?

Write student responses on separate sticky notes and stick on the whiteboard. Use the sticky notes to sequence the story. Sticky notes work well for this activity as they allow for debugging (identifying and removing errors) and engage students in following the [design process](#).

Mapping the story

Working in groups students draw and colour pictures to match places from the story. The pictures must not be bigger than 15 cm by 15 cm as they will need to fit in the cells on the grid. Students use the pictures to plot places from the story randomly on the grid.

Students program their robots to follow the journey of the Little Red Hen on their grid, visiting the places to match the sequence of the story. There will be a lot negotiation amongst group members as they decide on the route their robot will take and write the program to match. Sticky notes or mini whiteboards will work well for this part of the activity as they will make it easy to debug and renegotiate.

Students use the language of location and transformation to record the path the robot follows using arrows to show one step slides and use the language of *flip*, *slide*, *turn*.

Encourage students to describe their robot's route to one another using landmarks and directional language.

If devices are available, students can video this process for use in *Activity 4*.

Once finished, students reposition the pictures on the grid and repeat the activity.

Part 5: Making the load

Working in groups, students measure and sew a bag or design a box to hold the Little Red Hen's load. This will be pushed, pulled, lifted or dragged by their robot attachment solution in *Activity 3*.

The mass of the load will need to be determined. The mass may be set to say 100 g or each group may select a different mass. Students could choose different materials to make up their mass.

Rulers will be needed to measure fabric and balance scales will be needed to weigh the bags or boxes once filled.

Additional learning opportunity

To further engage in the Design and Technology curriculum students can bake bread as the Little Red Hen did in the story. An example of a recipe sheet can be found here:

How to make bread (Twinkl, 2018)

www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t-t-20249-bread-recipe-sheet

Part 6: Reflection

In their reflective journals, students document what they have learnt about shapes and how they may be moved, and about maps and how they can help us think about journeys. Students record one question they are curious about.

Digital resources

2D Shape Word Mat (Twinkl, 2018)

www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t-n-105-2d-shape-word-mat

3D Shape Word Mat (Twinkl, 2018)

www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t-n-106-3d-shape-word-mat

Little Red Hen printable resources (Twinkl, 2018)

www.twinkl.com.au/resources/early-years-on-the-farm-storybooks/early-years-little-red-hen-1/early-years-little-red-hen-1-activities

How to make bread (Twinkl, 2018)

www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t-t-20249-bread-recipe-sheet

Activity 3: Prototyping

Activity focus



Students work collaboratively to design an attachment for a robot to move objects over a distance using push or pull forces. They follow the design process of ideation, development and production.

Background information

The design process is a series of steps to guide problem solving. There are many different versions, but the core ideas are the same. See [Design process guide](#) for elaboration. The key idea is to allow students to improve on their original design after testing.

Instructional procedures

Students may need support and scaffolding as they work through the design process. This process is cyclical, ensuring the final product is refined and demonstrates changes that reflect critical and creative thinking.

Students will need to explain and justify their reasoning in their reflective journals and final presentation.

Working in groups will require students to negotiate with their peers to reach an agreed outcome. Collaborative group skills are a foundation of STEM processes and students are encouraged to develop these from an early age.

Expected learning

Students will be able to:

1. Identify and describe half and quarter turns when programming the route their robot will follow (Mathematics).
2. Describe how a push or a pull force affects how the robot attachment moves objects over a distance (Science).
3. Identify that it is the force of the robot that enables the attachment to move (Technologies).
4. Develop, communicate and discuss design ideas through describing, drawing and modelling (Technologies).
5. Work collaboratively to organise information and ideas (Technologies).

Equipment required **For the class:**

Set of robots (eg *Edison*, *Sphero*, *Dash and Dot*, *Bee-Bot*)

Camera

For the students:

Devices, computers if necessary

A range of recycled materials or craft supplies

Tools - scissors, sticky tape, poster putty, glue

[Student activity sheet 3.2: Shapes or objects](#)

Pens and pencils

Preparation

Some robots will require programming software or an app to be preinstalled on the device or computer. See the appropriate robot website for more information.

Prepare the necessary resource sheets for students.

Ensure robots are charged.

Activity parts**Part 1: What is the design process?**

To engage students in the design process, view the *Crash Course Kids* video *The Engineering Process*, or another from *Digital resources*.

Discuss and outline the steps of the [design process](#) the students will follow as they create a solution to the problem. Explain the process is cyclical and encourage students to engage in the process more than once. This will ensure students are producing the best solution they can.

Part 2: Design criteria

Facilitate a discussion about how the performance of their attachments might be judged. Develop a suitable set of design criteria for the class.

Prompt thinking through questioning:



- How will we know if our design solution was successful?
Possible answers: It stuck to the robot, it held the bag of wheat and didn't let it fall off, it could follow the route on the map, it could carry a load of X grams or X blocks.
 - Will our design push, pull, or carry the wheat?
-

Part 3: Ideation

Before students begin designing they will need to gather some more information. Explain to the students that they will investigate using robots and push or pull forces to move selected objects over a distance.

Using play baes activities, students observe how the push and pull forces of the robot can impact on the movement of various objects.

It is important the objects are a range of sizes, shapes, weight and materials. All groups need access to the same objects to make the test and final evaluation fair.

Show students the distance the robot will need to move the objects by marking out an area on the ground with tape or chalk. Two meters is a good distance to work towards.

Students continue to work in small groups, using a think-pair-share strategy ([see Teacher resource sheet 1.3: Cooperative learning – Think-pair-share](#)) to brainstorm design ideas for a robot attachment to carry the load. Students decide whether their robots will push, pull or carry the load. The ideas can be written or verbal. The load will be the Little Red Hen's bag of flour the students made in *Activity 2*. Students share these ideas through a class discussion.

Part 4: Narrow down ideas

Working collaboratively, students decide on their favourite ideas from the ideation process. They use *Useful/Possible* to determine which idea they will choose to create in the development phase of the [design process](#).

Useful/Possible

In groups, students create a shortlist of best ideas. Each idea is given a score out of three for how *useful* it is in achieving the goal and how *possible* it is to achieve with the equipment on hand.

Students may need help in determining if an idea is possible.

Part 5: Designing solutions

Students draw a diagram of their chosen design. Students can work individually or in their groups depending on their collaborative skills and the amount of available equipment.

Part 6: Building solutions

Allow students time to build their attachment. Don't correct student mistakes at this stage in the process. The point of the [design process](#) is for students to test their solution and then alter it depending on how well it meets the success criteria. The success criteria could be made into a checklist for students to use as they develop their solutions.

Use questioning to develop higher order thinking:



- Do you think that will work? Why?
- Why have you designed your attachment that way?

See [Teacher resource sheet 3.1: Construction skills](#) for ways students can develop their cutting and joining skills.

If students are stuck, offer suggestions for how to overcome the problem but avoid offering solutions. For example:



- Why does it keep falling off?
- How could you stop this?

Some example solutions for pushing objects:

- Attach a 'bull bar' on the front of an *Edison* robot. Pre-program the *Edison* robot with the 'follow the black line' program. Tape (or draw) a black line for *Edison* to follow.
- Attach a scoop on the front of a *Dash* robot. Use the 'Go' app to remote control the *Dash* to move around and push the objects on the map.

Part 7: Testing solutions

Allow students time to test their solutions.

Students program their robot to follow the sequence on the map and see if their robot can move the load along the path the Little Red Hen took.

Encourage students to reflect on their performance and learning by asking questions such as:



- What worked well?
- What did not work well?
- How could you improve your design?

Provide opportunities for students to improve their design and then retest. Provide an end date at which point students need to submit a final prototype.

Once students have finished, ask them to work together to identify as many shapes as they can on their robot attachment and record these using [Student activity sheet 3.2: Shapes or objects](#).

Part 8: Reflection

Students add to their reflective journals something that went well when working as a group and something they would do differently. Encourage them to reflect on their designs, justifying any improvements.

Resource sheets

[Teacher resource sheet 1.2: Cooperative learning - Placemat](#)

[Teacher resource sheet 1.3: Cooperative learning Think-pair-share](#)

[Teacher resource sheet 3.1: Construction skills](#)

[Student activity sheet 3.2: Shapes or objects](#)

Digital resources

Teach Engineering

www.teachengineering.org

Suite of in-depth resources for teaching engineering for K-12 from the University of Colorado.

ABC Splash resources

Thinking about the design process (ABC, 2015)

education.abc.net.au/home#!/media/2128865/thinking-about-the-design-process

Short video on the engineering design process

Thoughtful design (ABC, 2001)

education.abc.net.au/home#!/media/1662194/thoughtful-design

Short video on how a home is designed to accommodate someone in a wheelchair. Comparisons can be made to designing for robots.

Crash Course Kids videos

The Robot Challenge: Crash Course Kids #47.1

www.youtube.com/watch?v=0GMBJFqgHfc

The Engineering Process: Crash Course Kids #12.2

www.youtube.com/watch?v=fxJWin195kU

MIT K-12 Videos

Science, Engineering and Design! Video 2: Engineering Design Process (MIT K-12 Videos, 2013)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Dp2qHz8r2U

The Works – engineering museum

Engineering design process poster (The Works Museum, 2016)

theworks.org/educators-and-groups/elementary-engineering-resources/engineering-design-process/

Activity 4: Share results

Activity focus



Students evaluate the success of their robot attachment against a set of criteria. Students communicate their findings and justify design choices to their peers and, where possible, a wider audience.

Background information

Students create their presentation using a choice of media such as a comic strip, eBook, Pages, Keynote or PowerPoint or iMovie (or similar) presentation, which can then be shared through a digital platform such as Connect, Seesaw or Class Dojo, added to a class blog, or shared on an interactive whiteboard. Students may require explicit instruction in using these apps.

If digital technology is not accessible, students could share their project using a poster, recount or book.

There are many ways to safely share information online. A tool that involves sending information privately to individuals (eg via email) or uses passwords to protect the information (eg a password protected website, app that requires a log-in) is preferred. The tools listed in the *Digital resources* section are good examples. However, learn how to use the tool before using it in the classroom as sometimes the default setting may be 'public' and it should be changed to 'private'.

Expected learning

Students will be able to:

1. Use simple criteria to evaluate the success of design processes and solutions (Technologies).
2. Use a chosen form of digital technology to record a reflection of the design process (Technologies).
3. Use appropriate media to communicate the solution and justify design choices (Science and Technologies).

Equipment required

For the class:

Devices and technology necessary for presentations

For the students:

Two different coloured sticky notes per student

Device with appropriate software

Preparation

Prepare the necessary resource sheets for students.

Offer a choice of apps for students to create a digital reflection on their designs (see *Digital resources*).

Ensure digital photos of their design solutions are available.

Activity parts**Part 1: Gallery walk**

Students participate in a gallery walk and view the completed robot designs. Working in pairs, students will be given two different coloured sticky notes and encouraged to leave one note highlighting a strength of each design and another offering an idea for improvement.

Part 2: Self-reflection

Students self-evaluate and reflect on the feedback, thinking about changes they could make to improve their design. Students complete the [Student activity sheet 4.1: Design review](#) to continue the design process with a focus on the *evaluation* phase.

Evaluation: What works, what doesn't, what could work better?

Students use the success criteria determined by the class in *Activity 3* to evaluate their solution.

Part 3: Digital reflection creation

Students work collaboratively to communicate their design journey. Use questioning to stimulate reflection and discussion:



- What have you designed?
- Why did you choose that design?
- How will your design help the Little Red Hen?
- What did not work according to your plan? How did you change things to make it work?
- What would you do differently the next time? Why?

Students document their final solution. This can be done in several ways including (but not limited to):

- Photos
- Video
- Labelled diagram
- Poster

Suggested apps for use in the creation of presentations are listed in *Digital resources*.

Part 4: Sharing the design

Students communicate and share their presentations and learning with their school community, parents, class mates or an industry representative.

Using tools such as the school intranet, *Connect*, *Seesaw*, a class blog, *Padlet*, email newsletter (see *Digital resources*) will enable students to share their presentations with an audience beyond the classroom.

Part 5: Reflective Journal

Students reflect on their learning, using the following question prompts to guide their reflection on their STEM learning journey:

- What are three things I have learnt about how robots help people?
- What are two things I found difficult?
- What is a question I still wonder about?

Resource sheets [Student activity sheet 4.1: Design review](#)

Digital resources Keynote
itunes.apple.com/au/app/keynote/id361285480?mt=8

Comic Maker HD
itunes.apple.com/au/app/comic-maker-hd/id649271605?mt=8

iBooks Author
www.apple.com/au/ibooks-author

Book Creator
itunes.apple.com/au/app/book-creator-for-ipad-create/id442378070?mt=8

Comic Life
itunes.apple.com/us/app/comic-life/id432537882?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D4

iMovie

itunes.apple.com/au/app/imovie/id377298193?mt=8

Pages

itunes.apple.com/au/app/pages/id361309726?mt=8

Seesaw Digital Portfolio

web.seesaw.me

Free online student digital portfolio tool. Private space for your class to share their work. Students and parents can only access the space through temporary passwords or by scanning a QR code. Works great with tablets.

Class Dojo

www.classdojo.com

Explain Everything

explaineverything.com

Padlet

www.padlet.com

Free online 'pin-up' board. Ability to make the 'pin-up' board collaborative so multiple students can post their work on it. It is also possible to set it to private, so only those with the link, or a set password can access the page.

Free website creators

Be aware of the privacy settings associated with the website you create. It may be 'publicly' available.

Weebly www.weebly.com

Wordpress www.wordpress.com

Wix www.wix.com

Square Space www.squarespace.com

Adobe Spark spark.adobe.com

Microsoft Sway sway.com

Canva www.canva.com

Appendix 1: Links to the Western Australian Curriculum

The *Little Red Hen's robot friend* module provides opportunities for developing students' knowledge and understandings in science, technologies and mathematics. The table below shows how this module aligns to the content of the Western Australian Curriculum and can be used by teachers for planning and monitoring.

LITTLE RED HEN'S ROBOT FRIEND Links to the Western Australian Curriculum	ACTIVITY			
	1	2	3	4
SCIENCE				
SCIENCE UNDERSTANDING				
<i>Physical sciences</i> : A push or a pull affects how an object moves or changes shape		•		
SCIENCE INQUIRY SKILLS				
<i>Planning and conducting</i> : Participate in guided investigations to explore and answer questions		•		
DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGIES				
KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING				
<i>Engineering principles and systems</i> : Forces create movement in objects		•	•	
PROCESSES AND PRODUCTION SKILLS				
<i>Designing</i> : Develop, communicate and discuss design ideas through describing, drawing, modelling and/or a sequence of steps			•	
<i>Evaluating</i> : Use simple criteria to evaluate the success of design processes and solutions			•	
<i>Collaborating and managing</i> : Work independently, or collaboratively when required, to organise information and ideas to create and safely share sequenced steps for solutions	•	•	•	•

MATHEMATICS				
MEASUREMENT AND GEOMETRY				
Using units of measurement: Compare masses of objects using balance scales			•	
Shape: Describe the features of three-dimensional objects			•	
Location and transformation: Identify and describe half and quarter turns		•		

Appendix 1B: Mathematics proficiency strands

Key ideas

In Mathematics, the key ideas are the proficiency strands of understanding, fluency, problem-solving and reasoning. The proficiency strands describe the actions in which students can engage when learning and using the content. While not all proficiency strands apply to every content description, they indicate the breadth of mathematical actions that teachers can emphasise.

Understanding

Students build a robust knowledge of adaptable and transferable mathematical concepts. They make connections between related concepts and progressively apply the familiar to develop new ideas. They develop an understanding of the relationship between the 'why' and the 'how' of mathematics. Students build understanding when they connect related ideas, when they represent concepts in different ways, when they identify commonalities and differences between aspects of content, when they describe their thinking mathematically and when they interpret mathematical information.

Fluency

Students develop skills in choosing appropriate procedures; carrying out procedures flexibly, accurately, efficiently and appropriately; and recalling factual knowledge and concepts readily. Students are fluent when they calculate answers efficiently, when they recognise robust ways of answering questions, when they choose appropriate methods and approximations, when they recall definitions and regularly use facts, and when they can manipulate expressions and equations to find solutions.

Problem-solving

Students develop the ability to make choices, interpret, formulate, model and investigate problem situations, and communicate solutions effectively. Students formulate and solve problems when they use mathematics to represent unfamiliar or meaningful situations, when they design investigations and plan their approaches, when they apply their existing strategies to seek solutions, and when they verify that their answers are reasonable.

Reasoning

Students develop an increasingly sophisticated capacity for logical thought and actions, such as analysing, proving, evaluating, explaining, inferring, justifying and generalising. Students are reasoning mathematically when they explain their thinking, when they deduce and justify strategies used and conclusions reached, when they adapt the known to the unknown, when they transfer learning from one context to another, when they prove that something is true or false, and when they compare and contrast related ideas and explain their choices.

Source: www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/mathematics/key-ideas/?searchTerm=key+ideas#dimension-content

Appendix 2: General capabilities continuums

The general capabilities continuums shown here are designed to enable teachers to understand the progression students should make with reference to each of the elements. There is no intention for them to be used for assessment.

Information and communication technology (ICT) capability learning continuum

Typically by the end of Year 2	Typically by the end of Year 4	Typically by the end of Year 6
use ICT to prepare simple plans to find solutions or answers to questions	use ICT to generate ideas and plan solutions	use ICT effectively to record ideas, represent thinking and plan solutions
experiment with ICT as a creative tool to generate simple solutions, modifications or data representations for particular audiences or purposes	create and modify simple digital solutions, creative outputs or data representation/ transformation for particular purposes	independently or collaboratively create and modify digital solutions, creative outputs or data representation/ transformation for particular audiences and purposes
use purposefully selected ICT tools safely to share and exchange information with appropriate local audiences	use appropriate ICT tools safely to share and exchange information with appropriate known audiences	select and use appropriate ICT tools safely to share and exchange information and to safely collaborate with others

Personal and social capability learning continuum

Typically by the end of Year 2	Typically by the end of Year 4	Typically by the end of Year 6
identify cooperative behaviours in a range of group activities	describe characteristics of cooperative behaviour and identify evidence of these in group activities	contribute to groups and teams, suggesting improvements in methods used for group investigations and projects
practise solving simple interpersonal problems, recognising there are many ways to solve conflict	identify a range of conflict resolution strategies to negotiate positive outcomes to problems	identify causes and effects of conflict, and practise different strategies to diffuse or resolve conflict situations
discuss ways in which they can take responsibility for their own actions	discuss the concept of leadership and identify situations where it is appropriate to adopt this note	initiate or help to organise group activities that address a common need

Critical and creative thinking learning continuum

Typically by the end of Year 2	Typically by the end of Year 4	Typically by the end of Year 6
organise information based on similar or relevant ideas from several sources	collect, compare and categorise facts and opinions found in a widening range of sources	analyse, condense and combine relevant information from multiple sources
build on what they know to create ideas and possibilities in ways that are new to them	expand on known ideas to create new and imaginative combinations	combine ideas in a variety of ways and from a range of sources to create new possibilities
investigate options and predict possible outcomes when putting ideas into action	experiment with a range of options when seeking solutions and putting ideas into action	assess and test options to identify the most effective solution and to put ideas into action
use information from a previous experience to inform a new idea	transfer and apply information in one setting to enrich another	apply knowledge gained from one context to another unrelated context and identify new meaning

Further information about general capabilities is available at:

k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/home/p-10-curriculum/general-capabilities-over/general-capabilities-overview/general-capabilities-in-the-australian-curriculum

Appendix 3: Materials list

The following materials are required to complete this module.

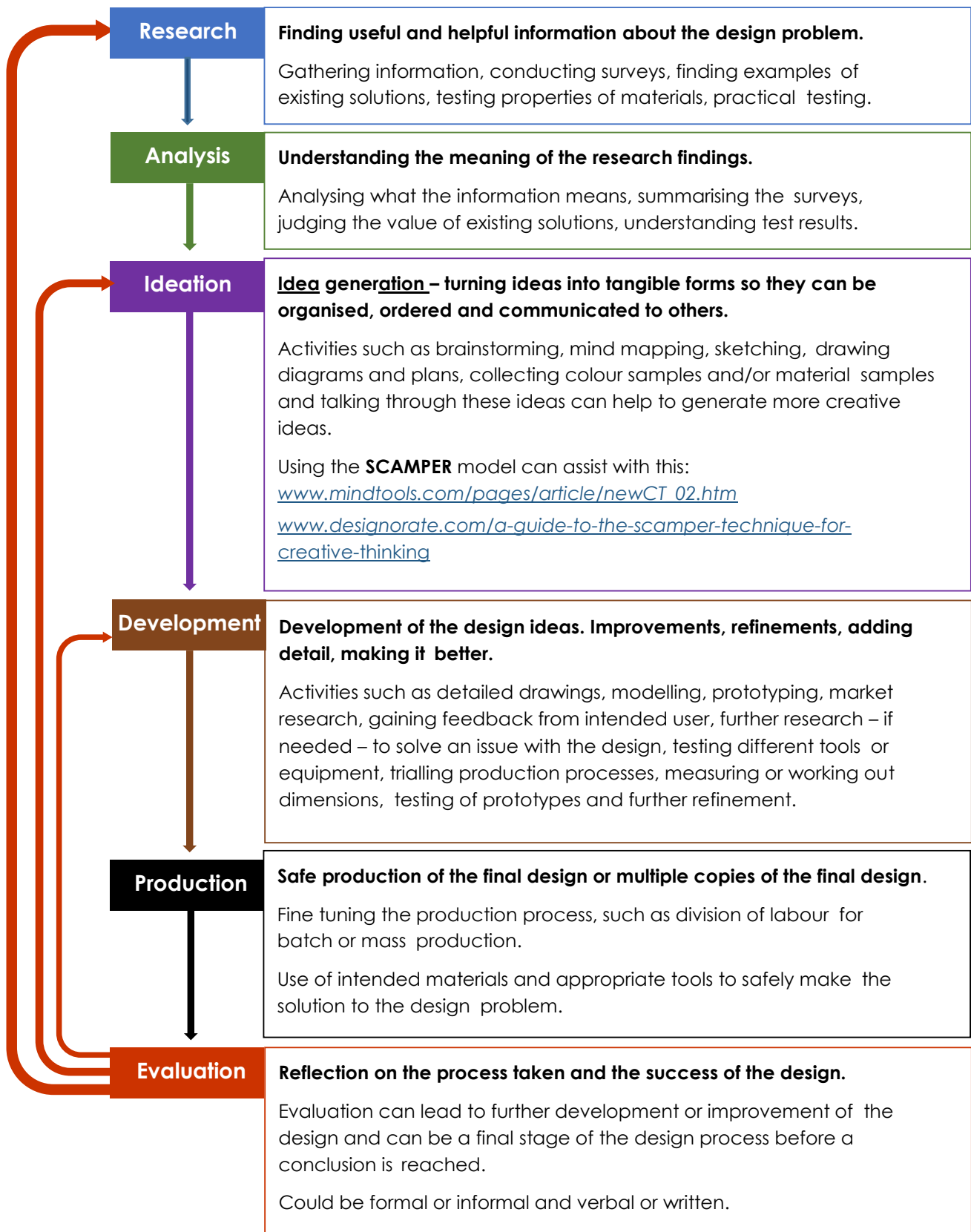
A range of recyclable items, including:

- newspaper
- cans
- plastic bottles
- ice-cream containers
- yoghurt containers
- shoe boxes
- plastic wrapping
- boxes
- foil
- fabric scraps
- egg cartons
- bottle caps.

A selection of cutting and construction tools such as:

- tape
- scissors
- cutting mats
- glue sticks
- PVA glue
- paint brushes
- hot glue guns (used by adults)
- tacks
- cable ties
- string.

Appendix 4: Design process guide



Appendix 5: Reflective journal

When students reflect on learning and analyse their own ideas and feelings, they self-evaluate, thereby improving their metacognitive skills. When students self-monitor or reflect, the most powerful learning happens.



Journaling may take the form of a written or digital journal, a portfolio or a digital portfolio. Early childhood classrooms may use a class reflective floor book with pictures of the learning experience and scribed conversations.

Teachers can model the journaling process by thinking aloud and showing students how they can express learning and thoughts in a variety of ways including diagrams, pictures and writing.

Journals are a useful tool that gives teachers additional insight into how students value their own learning and progress, as well as demonstrating their individual achievements.

The following links provide background information and useful apps for journaling.

Kidblog – digital portfolios and blogging

kidblog.org/home

Edmodo – for consolidating and storing class notes and learning materials

www.edmodo.com

Explain Everything™ – a screen casting, video and presentation tool all in one

Explaineverything.com

Popplet – allows you to jot down your ideas and then sort them visually

Popplet.com

Seesaw – for capturing work completed by students in class, using a device's camera function

Web.seesaw.me

Connect – the DoE portal for teachers

connect.det.wa.edu.au

Evernote (a digital portfolio app)

evernote.com

Digital portfolios for students (Cool tools for school)

cooltoolsforschool.wordpress.com/digital-student-portfolios

Appendix 6: Teacher resource sheet 1.1: Cooperative learning – Roles

Cooperative learning frameworks create opportunities for groups of students to work together, generally to a single purpose.

As well as having the potential to increase learning for all students involved, using these frameworks can help students develop personal and social capability.

When students are working in groups, positive interdependence can be fostered by assigning roles to group members.



These roles could include:

- working roles such as Reader, Writer, Summariser, Time-keeper.
- social roles such as Encourager, Observer, Noise monitor, Energiser.

Teachers using the *Primary Connections* roles of Director, Manager and Speaker for their science teaching may find it effective to also use these roles for STEM learning.

Further to this, specific roles can be delineated for specific activities that the group is completing.

It can help students if some background to the purpose of group roles is made clear to them before they start, but at no time should the roles get in the way of the learning. Teachers should decide when or where roles are appropriate to given tasks.



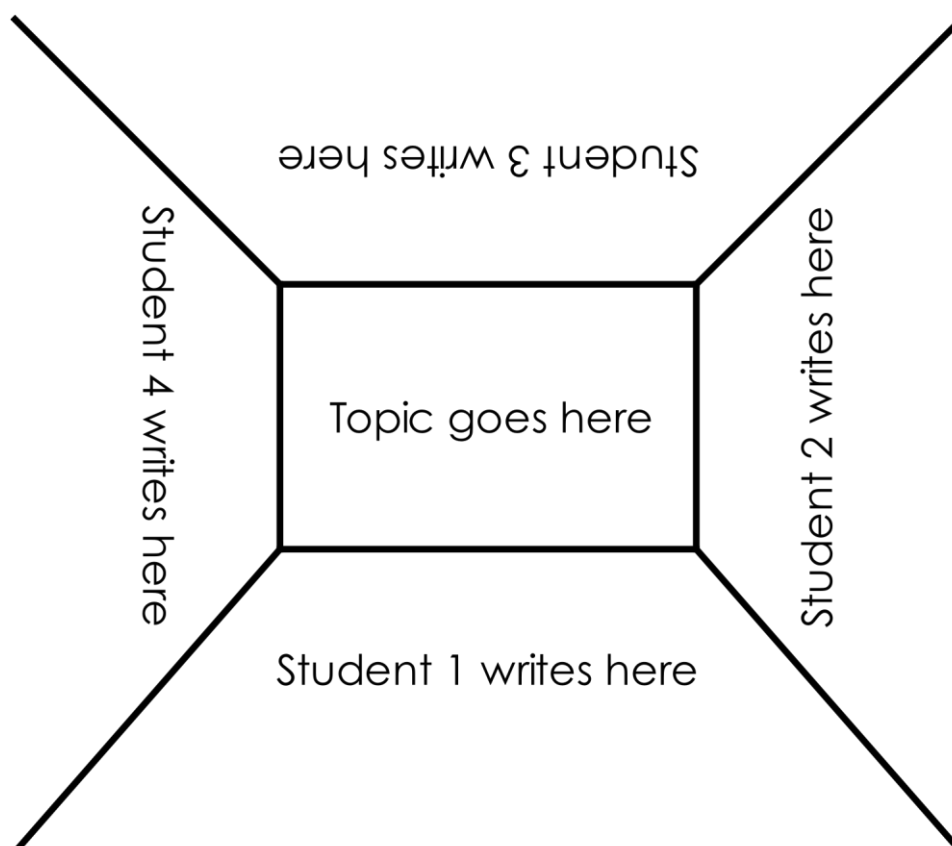
Appendix 7: Teacher resource sheet 1.2: Cooperative learning – Placemat

This resource sheet provides a brief outline of a cooperative learning strategy known as 'placemat'.

Cooperative learning frameworks create opportunities for groups of students to work together, generally for a single purpose.

As well as having the potential to increase learning for all students involved, using these frameworks can help students develop personal and social capability.

The placemat strategy involves students working collaboratively to record prior knowledge about a common topic and brainstorm ideas. It also allows teachers to readily see the contribution of each student. The diagram below shows a typical placemat template.



Appendix 8: Teacher resource sheet 1.3: Cooperative learning – Think, Pair, Share

This resource sheet provides a brief outline of a cooperative learning strategy known as 'think – pair – share'.

Cooperative learning frameworks create opportunities for groups of students to work together, generally to a single purpose.

As well as having the potential to increase learning for all students involved, using these frameworks can help students develop personal and social capability.



In the 'think' stage, each student thinks silently about a question asked by the teacher.

In the 'pair' stage, students discuss their thoughts and answers to the question in pairs.

In the 'share' stage, the students share their answer, their partners answer or what they decided together. This sharing may be with other pairs or with the whole class. It is important also to let students 'pass'. This is a key element of making the strategy safe for students.

Think – pair – share increases student participation and provides an environment for higher levels of thinking and questioning.



Appendix 9: Student resource sheet 1.4: I see, I think, I wonder

What do you see when you look at this image?



What are you thinking about as you look at this image?



What are your wonderings (questions)?



Appendix 10: Teacher resource sheet 1.5: Sample parent letter

(School details and letterhead)

(Date)

Dear parents/caregivers,

RE: REUSABLE ITEMS COLLECTION FOR *LITTLE RED HEN'S ROBOT FRIEND* STEM PROJECT

This term our class is undertaking a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) project called *Little Red Hen's robot friend*. Based on the picture book *The Little Red Hen* by Margot Zemach, this project will involve students repurposing items to create an attachment for a robot to help the Little Red Hen take her wheat to the mill and the flour to her home.

This project focuses on repurposing items to give students opportunities to consider sustainability and the impact of our lifestyles on our environment, while developing their ability to design, create and problem-solve.

To enable us to create our design solutions, we would appreciate if you could please collect clean reusable items from your house. Please do not include any alcoholic containers or toilet rolls. We would like the items to be delivered to the classroom before (date).

We will be collecting data on the shape and material properties of the items before using them to create a solution.

We may require adult assistance during the construction phase so please let me know if you are available to help.

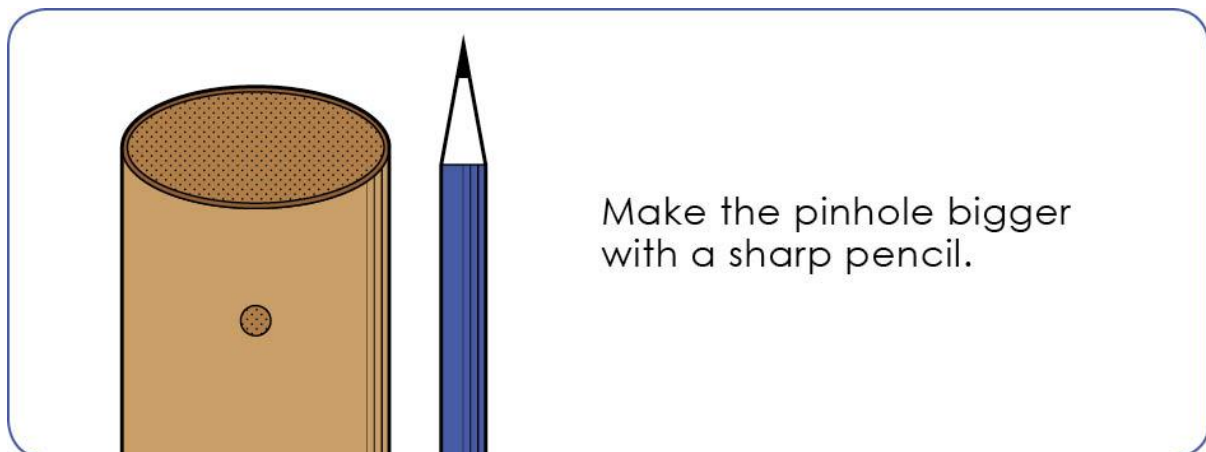
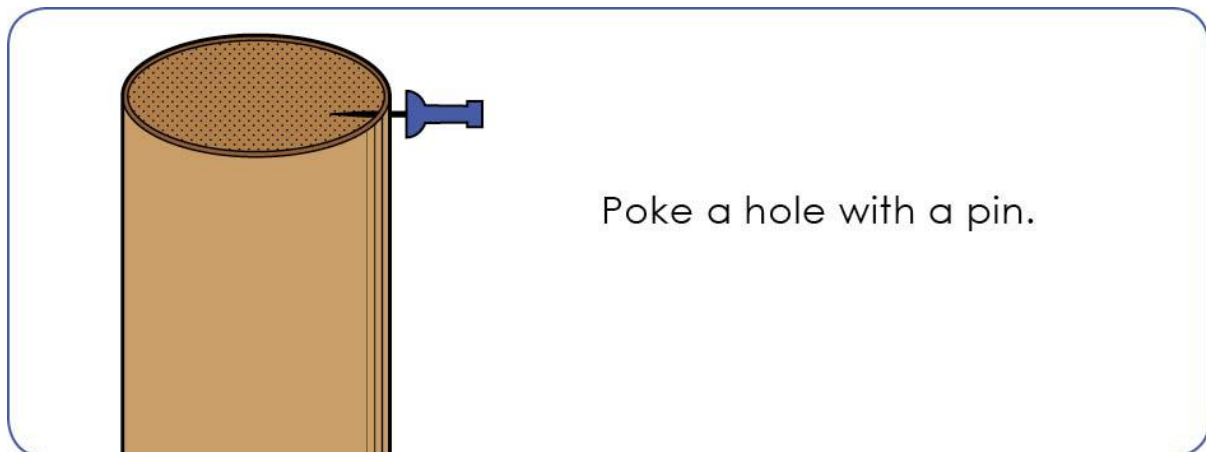
Thank you in advance,

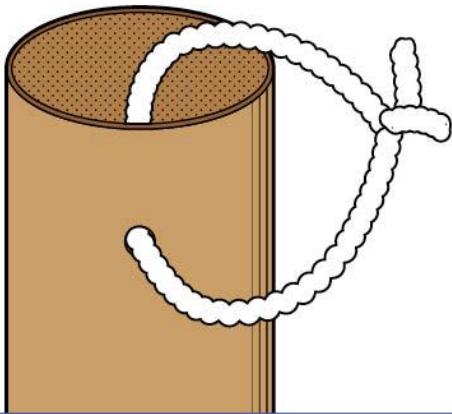
(Classroom teacher)

Appendix 11: Teacher resource sheet 3.1: Construction skills

Construction skills help students to generate and produce solutions for real-world problems. This resource develops students' skills in design and technologies.

This resource can be used as a visual stimulus to prompt students to develop solutions to design problems. The cards can be printed out to create stations.

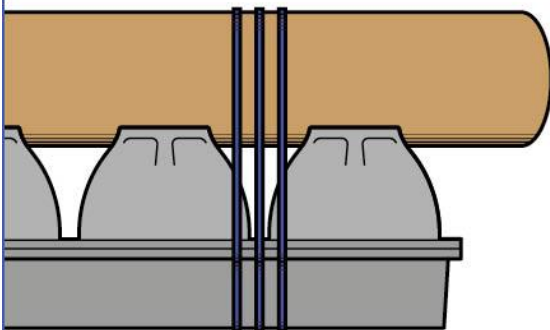




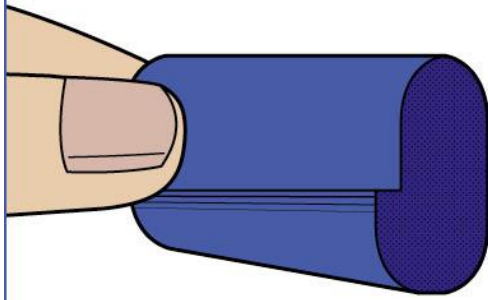
Make a loop using a pipe cleaner.



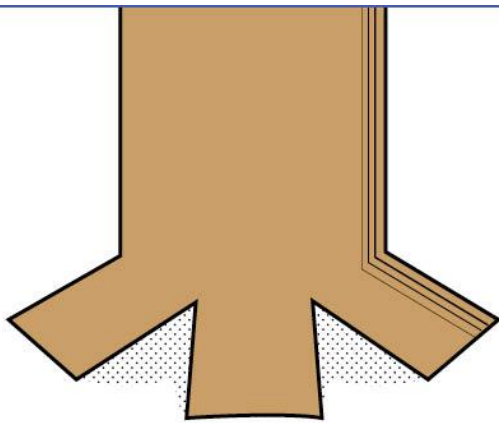
Use a paper binder to fasten objects together.



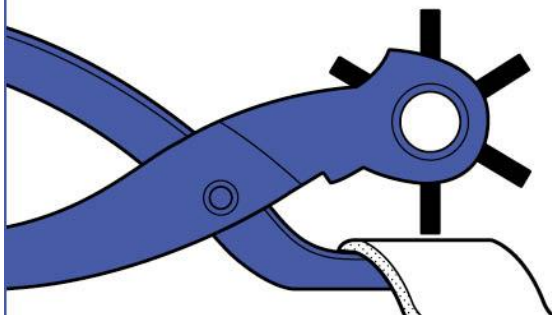
Use cable ties to tie objects together.



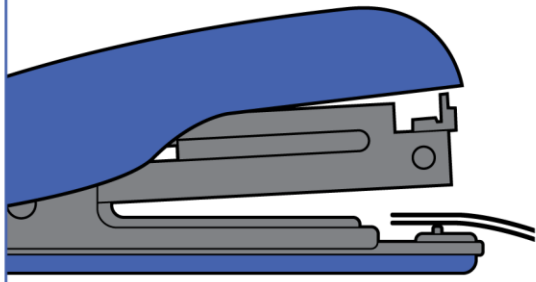
Make a tape loop with the sticky side on the outside.



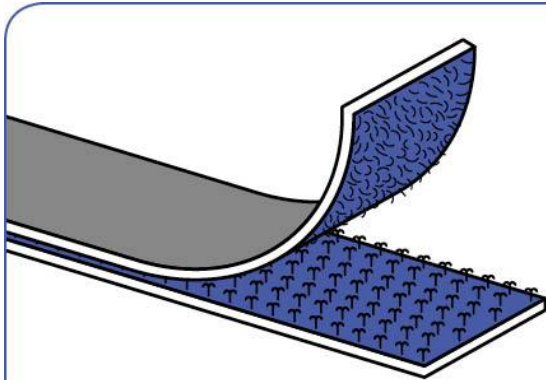
Cut the end of a tube into a fan to attach it to a flat object.



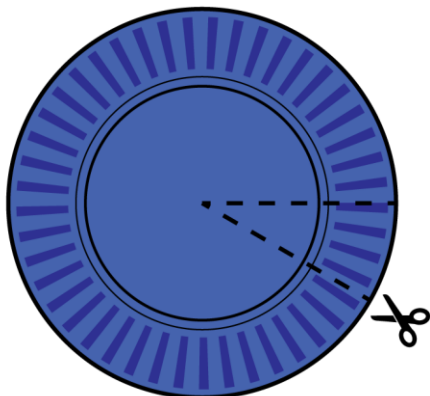
Use a leather hole punch to make holes in objects.



Use a stapler to join materials together.



Use velcro to join objects.



Cut a sector out of a paper plate, and join the edges to make a cone shape.

Appendix 12: Student activity sheet 3.2: Shapes or objects



Shapes or objects we used in our robot attachment

Shape or object	How many can we count in our robot attachment?

Appendix 13: Student activity sheet 4.1: Design review

I like our attachment because ...

We could improve our attachment by ...

Did you have a problem while building your attachment?

How did you solve the problem?

What did you learn from doing this project?

Photograph or drawing



Department of
Education

