



CreositySpace

Idea Pioneers

Activity Descriptions and Standards Alignment

Innovation Challenge – General Description

Objective:

To have students work through all steps in within the Engineering Design Process taking a concept from idea to a product or business.

Materials

Activity worksheets, Activity Slides, optional external judges

General Description:

Every business starts with an idea, but to be successful you need more than just a good idea. You must also identify the target market (i.e., your customers), consider how you might manufacture or provide your product (and the cost to do so), and how you will protect what makes your solution unique or special (your intellectual property). In this activity students will work in groups of 3–5 to go through the steps in the engineering design and product development process – from solution brainstorming to market and production considerations and finally to intellectual property protection.

This program can easily be modified for higher grades by adjusting:

- the amount of time the students are given to work on the challenge,
- presentation requirements (length, breadth, use of any audio-visual equipment), and
- general judging criteria (how unique but still feasible is the solution, have production and market considerations been met).

Depending on time considerations and interest, members of the local entrepreneurship community are often excited to come in as external judges. If you need some help finding or contacting suitable judges check out our STEM Company Finder (www.creosityspace.com/find-a-stem-company.html) or contact us directly at Kath@CreositySpace.com.

Approximate materials cost for a class of 30 students: < \$5



Education Standards

Don't see the standards for your school district? Contact us at Kath@creosityspace.com and we will determine the appropriate standards alignment for your district.

Common Core ELA Standards:

Grade 3

Reading Informational Text:

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.1](#) Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.2](#) Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.4](#) Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a *grade 3 topic or subject area*.

Writing:

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.2](#) Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.2.a](#) Introduce a topic and group related information together; include illustrations when useful to aiding comprehension.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.2.b](#) Develop the topic with facts, definitions, and details.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.2.c](#) Use linking words and phrases (e.g., *also, another, and, more, but*) to connect ideas within categories of information.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.2.d](#) Provide a concluding statement or section.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1](#) Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1.a](#) Introduce the topic or text they are writing about, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure that lists reasons.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1.b](#) Provide reasons that support the opinion.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1.c](#) Use linking words and phrases (e.g., *because, therefore, since, for example*) to connect opinion and reasons.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1.d](#) Provide a concluding statement or section.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.4](#) With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.5](#) With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.6](#) With guidance and support from adults, use technology to produce and publish writing (using keyboarding skills) as well as to interact and collaborate with others.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.7](#) Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.8](#) Recall information from experiences or gather information from print and digital sources; take brief notes on sources and sort evidence into provided categories.

Speaking & Listening:

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3.1](#) Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on *grade 3 topics and texts*, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3.1.A](#) Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation and other information known about the topic to explore ideas under discussion.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3.1.B](#) Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions (e.g., gaining the floor in respectful ways, listening to others with care, speaking one at a time about the topics and texts under discussion).

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3.1.c](#) Ask questions to check understanding of information presented, stay on topic, and link their comments to the remarks of others.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3.1.d](#) Explain their own ideas and understanding in light of the discussion.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3.3](#) Ask and answer questions about information from a speaker, offering appropriate elaboration and detail.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3.4](#) Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking clearly at an understandable pace.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3.6](#) Speak in complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation in order to provide requested detail or clarification.

Language:

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.3.1](#) Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.3.1.A](#) Explain the function of nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs in general and their functions in particular sentences.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.3.2](#) Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.3.4](#) Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning word and phrases based on grade 3 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

Grade 4

Reading Informational Text:

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.1](#) Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.2](#) Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.4](#) Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words or phrases in a text relevant to a *grade 4 topic or subject area*.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.5](#) Describe the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in a text or part of a text.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.7](#) Interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively (e.g., in charts, graphs, diagrams, time lines, animations, or interactive elements on Web pages) and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears.

Writing:

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.1](#) Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.1.A](#) Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which related ideas are grouped to support the writer's purpose.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.1.B](#) Provide reasons that are supported by facts and details.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.1.C](#) Link opinion and reasons using words and phrases

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.1.D](#) Provide a concluding statement or section related to the opinion presented.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.2](#) Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.2.A](#) Introduce a topic clearly and group related information in paragraphs and sections; include formatting (e.g., headings), illustrations, and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.2.B](#) Develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.2.C](#) Link ideas within categories of information using words and phrases.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.2.D](#) Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.2.E](#) Provide a concluding statement or section related to the information or explanation presented.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.4](#) Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.8](#) Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; take notes and categorize information, and provide a list of sources.

Speaking & Listening:

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.4.1](#) Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on *grade 4 topics and texts*, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.4.1.A](#) Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation and other information known about the topic to explore ideas under discussion.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.4.1.B](#) Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions and carry out assigned roles.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.4.1.C](#) Pose and respond to specific questions to clarify or follow up on information, and make comments that contribute to the discussion and link to the remarks of others.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.4.1.D](#) Review the key ideas expressed and explain their own ideas and understanding in light of the discussion.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.4.3](#) Identify the reasons and evidence a speaker provides to support particular points.

Language:

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.4.1](#) Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.4.1.A](#) Use relative pronouns (*who, whose, whom, which, that*) and relative adverbs (*where, when, why*).

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.4.2](#) Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.4.3](#) Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.4.3.A](#) Choose words and phrases to convey ideas precisely.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.4.4](#) Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 4 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

Grade 5

Reading Informational Text:

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.2](#) Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize the text.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.3](#) Explain the relationships or interactions between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text based on specific information in the text.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.4](#) Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a *grade 5 topic or subject area*.

Writing:

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.1](#) Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.1.A](#) Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which ideas are logically grouped to support the writer's purpose.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.1.B](#) Provide logically ordered reasons that are supported by facts and details.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.1.C](#) Link opinion and reasons using words, phrases, and clauses

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.1.D](#) Provide a concluding statement or section related to the opinion presented.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.2](#) Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.2.A](#) Introduce a topic clearly, provide a general observation and focus, and group related information logically; include formatting (e.g., headings), illustrations, and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.2.B](#) Develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.2.C](#) Link ideas within and across categories of information using words, phrases, and clauses (e.g., *in contrast, especially*).

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.2.D](#) Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.2.E](#) Provide a concluding statement or section related to the information or explanation presented.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.4](#) Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.8](#) Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; summarize or paraphrase information in notes and finished work, and provide a list of sources.

Speaking & Listening:

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.5.1](#) Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on *grade 5 topics and texts*, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.5.1.A](#) Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation and other information known about the topic to explore ideas under discussion.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.5.1.B](#) Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions and carry out assigned roles.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.5.1.C](#) Pose and respond to specific questions by making comments that contribute to the discussion and elaborate on the remarks of others.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.5.1.D](#) Review the key ideas expressed and draw conclusions in light of information and knowledge gained from the discussions.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.5.3](#) Summarize the points a speaker makes and explain how each claim is supported by reasons and evidence.

Language:

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.5.1](#) Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.5.1.A](#) Explain the function of conjunctions, prepositions, and interjections in general and their function in particular sentences.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.5.2](#) Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.5.3](#) Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.5.4](#) Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 5 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.



Common Core Math Standards (Grades 3 – 5):

Grade 3

- MP.1** Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- 3.OA.1** Represent and solve problems involving multiplication and division.
- 3.OA.7** Multiply and divide within 100.
- 3.NBT.1-3** Use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic.
- 3.NF-1** Develop understanding of fractions as numbers, volumes, and masses of objects.

Grade 4

- MP.1** Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- 4.OA.1-3** Use the four operations with whole numbers to solve problems.
- 4.NBT.1-3** Use place value and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic.

Grade 5

- MP.1** Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

Next Generation Science Standards Grades 3 - 5:

Performance Expectations		
<p>3-5-ETS1-1. Define a simple design problem reflecting a need or a want that includes specified criteria for success and constraints on materials, time, or cost.</p> <p>3-5-ETS1-2. Generate and compare multiple possible solutions to a problem based on how well each is likely to meet the criteria and constraints of the problem.</p> <p>3-5-ETS1-3. Plan and carry out fair tests in which variables are controlled and failure points are considered to identify aspects of a model or prototype that can be improved.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Science and Engineering Practices</u></p> <p>Asking questions / defining problems The brainstorming part of the activity is all about asking questions, deciding on a specific problem to solve (from a general challenge) and figuring out the best way to solve that problem. A lot of the writing prompts require students to ask themselves questions.</p> <p>Developing and using models, Constructing explanations/designing solutions The design portion of the activity has the students thinking about, designing and, if there is time, building a prototype (which can be considered a model) During the activity students explaining to each other and to the class the reasons behind their idea</p> <p>Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information The final presentation is a good way for students to practice organizing and communicating information that explains the reasons behind their design.</p> <hr/>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Disciplinary Core Ideas</u></p> <p>LS1.A Structure and function The act of designing a product to perform a specific function is a tangible example of structure and function. This concrete example can be revisited as the students explore more abstract examples of structure-function.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Cross Cutting Concepts</u></p> <p>Cause and effect, Structure and function The design portion of the activity gives students a chance to think about the specific role of each part of their product.</p> <p>Systems and system models While they may not be able to build the actual product, sketches and prototypes give students a chance to model how things will work and how their product may interact with the people using it.</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Connections to Nature of Science</i></p> <p>Science is a human endeavor The whole idea of the challenge is about solving a problem and thinking about who will use this solution.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Connections to Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science</i></p> <p>Interdependence of Science, Engineering, and Technology During the activity students will be thinking both about what they want to make and also about how they will make it.</p> <p>Influence of Engineering, Technology and Science on Society and the Natural World The activity and the concept of intellectual property (both current and historical) are examples of how STEM concepts interact with the whole community.</p>
<p>Connections to Common Core State Standards See previous Common Core Standards section for ELA and Math standards addressed by these activities.</p>		



NY State Science Standards:

Grade 3 & 4

STANDARD 1 - SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY:

S1.1 Ask "why" questions in attempts to seek greater understanding concerning objects and events they have observed and heard about.

STANDARD 1 - ENGINEERING DESIGN:

T1.1 Describe objects, imaginary or real, that might be modeled or made differently and suggest ways in which the objects can be changed, fixed, or improved.

T1.1a Identify a simple/common object which might be improved and state the purpose of the improvement

T1.1b Identify features of an object that help or hinder the performance of the object

T1.1c Suggest ways the object can be made differently, fixed, or improved within given constraints

T1.3. Generate ideas for possible solutions, individually and through group activity; apply age-appropriate mathematics and science skills; evaluate the ideas and determine the best solution; and explain reasons for the choices.

T1.2 and **T1.4** may also be applicable if the activity is extended into the prototype building stage.

STANDARD 6 – INTERCONNECTEDNESS:

Models - Key Idea 2: Models are simplified representations of objects, structures, or systems, used in analysis, explanation, or design.

Optimization – Key Idea 6: In order to arrive at the best solution that meets criteria within constraints, it is often necessary to make trade-offs.

STANDARD 7 – INTERDISCIPLINARY PROBLEM SOLVING:

Connections- Key Idea 1: The knowledge and skills of mathematics, science, and technology are used together to make informed decisions and solve problems, especially those relating to issues of science/technology/society, consumer decision making, design, and inquiry into phenomena.

Strategies – Key Idea 2: Solving interdisciplinary problems involves a variety of skills and strategies, including effective work habits; gathering and processing information; generating and analyzing ideas; realizing ideas; making connections among the common themes of mathematics, science, and technology; and presenting results.

SCIENCE STANDARD - LIVING ENVIRONMENT:

7.1a Humans depend on their natural and constructed environments.

7.1b Over time humans have changed their environment by cultivating crops and raising animals, creating shelter, using energy, manufacturing goods, developing means of transportation, changing populations, and carrying out other activities.

7.1c Humans, as individuals or communities, change environments in ways that can be either helpful or harmful for themselves and other organisms.

Grade 5

STANDARD 1 - ENGINEERING DESIGN:

Key Idea 1: Engineering design is an iterative process involving modeling and optimization (finding the best solution within given constraints); this process is used to develop technological solutions to problems within given constraints.

T1.1 Identify needs and opportunities for technical solutions from an investigation of situations of general or social interest.

T1.1a identify a scientific or human need that is subject to a technological solution which applies scientific principles.

T1.3 Consider constraints and generate several ideas for alternative solutions, using group and individual ideation techniques (group discussion, brainstorming, forced connections, role play); defer judgment until a number of ideas have been generated; evaluate (critique) ideas; and explain why the chosen solution is optimal.

T1.3a generate ideas for alternative solutions

T1.3b evaluate alternatives based on the constraints of design

T1.2 and **T1.4** may also be applicable if the activity is extended into the prototype building stage.

STANDARD 6 – INTERCONNECTEDNESS:

Models - Key Idea 2: Models are simplified representations of objects, structures, or systems, used in analysis, explanation, or design.

Optimization – Key Idea 6: In order to arrive at the best solution that meets criteria within constraints, it is often necessary to make trade-offs.

STANDARD 7 – INTERDISCIPLINARY PROBLEM SOLVING:

Connections- Key Idea 1: The knowledge and skills of mathematics, science, and technology are used together to make informed decisions and solve problems, especially those relating to issues of science/technology/society, consumer decision making, design, and inquiry into phenomena.

Strategies – Key Idea 2: Solving interdisciplinary problems involves a variety of skills and strategies, including effective work habits; gathering and processing information; generating and analyzing ideas; realizing ideas; making connections among the common themes of mathematics, science, and technology; and presenting results.



Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills:

General

(2) Scientific investigation and reasoning. The student uses scientific inquiry methods during laboratory and outdoor investigations. The student is expected to:

(A) plan and implement descriptive investigations, including asking and answering questions, making inferences, and selecting and using equipment or technology needed, to solve a specific problem in the natural world;

(3) Scientific investigation and reasoning. The student knows that information, critical thinking, scientific problem solving, and the contributions of scientists are used in making decisions. The student is expected to:

(A) in all fields of science, analyze, evaluate, and critique scientific explanations by using empirical evidence, logical reasoning, and experimental and observational testing, including examining all sides of scientific evidence of those scientific explanations, so as to encourage critical thinking by the student;

(D) connect grade-level appropriate science concepts with the history of science, science careers, and contributions of scientists.