

# TURNING IDEAS INTO REALITY: ENGINEERING A BETTER WORLD

## Marble Ramp

**Targeted Grades** 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

### **STEM Career Connections**

Mechanical Engineering  
Civil Engineering  
Transportation, Distribution & Logistics  
Architecture & Construction

### **STEM Disciplines**

Science  
Technology  
Engineering

### **Non-STEM Discipline**

English Language Arts

### **Academic Content Standards**

#### **Ohio's New Learning Standards: Science Cognitive Demands**

##### **Expectations for Learning Cognitive Demands K-12**

##### **Designing Technological / Engineering Solutions Using Science Concepts:**

Requires student to solve science-based engineering or technological problems through application of scientific inquiry. Within given scientific constraints, propose or critique solutions, analyze and interpret technological and engineering problems, use science principles to anticipate effects of technological or engineering design, find solutions using science and engineering or technology, consider consequences and alternatives, and/or integrate and synthesize scientific information.

##### **Demonstrating Science Knowledge:**

Requires student to use scientific inquiry and develop the ability to think and act in ways associated with inquiry, including asking questions, planning and conducting investigations, using appropriate tools and techniques to gather and organize data, thinking critically and logically about relationships between evidence and explanations, constructing and analyzing alternative explanations, and communicating scientific arguments.

##### **Interpreting and Communication Science Concepts:**

Requires student to use subject-specific conceptual knowledge to interpret and explain events, phenomena, concepts and experiences using grade-appropriate scientific terminology, technological knowledge and mathematical knowledge. Communicate with clarity, focus and organization using rich, investigative scenarios, real-world data and valid scientific information.

## Expectations for Technology and Engineering Design: Guiding Principles Grades PreK-8

### Technological Design:

Technological design is a problem or project-based way of applying creativity, science, engineering and mathematics to meet a human need or want. Modern science is an integrated endeavor. Technological design integrates learning by using science, technology, engineering and mathematics and fosters 21st Century Skills.

### Technology and Engineering:

Technology modifies the natural world through innovative processes, systems, structures and devices to extend human abilities. Engineering is design under constraint that develops and applies technology to satisfy human needs and wants. Technology and engineering, coupled with the knowledge and methods derived from science and mathematics, profoundly influence the quality of life.

### Examples of the grade-appropriate skills expected of students:

#### PreK-4:

- Identify problems and potential technological/engineering solutions
- Understand the design process, role of troubleshooting
- Understand goals of physical, informational and bio-related technologies
- Understand how physical technologies impact humans

#### Grades 5-8:

- Understand and be able to select and use physical and informational technologies
- Understand how all technologies have changed over time
- Recognize role of design and testing in the design process
- Apply research, innovation and invention to problem solving

## Ohio's New Learning Standards: Science Guiding Principles Grades 3-8

There is no science without inquiry. Scientific inquiry is a way of knowing and a process of doing science. It is the diverse ways in which scientists study the natural world and propose explanations based on the evidence derived from their work. Scientific inquiry also refers to the activities through which students develop knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas as well as an understanding of how scientists study the natural world.

Teachers need to model scientific inquiry by teaching with inquiry.

#### Grades 3-5:

During the years of PreK-4, all students must become proficient in the use of the following scientific processes, with appropriate laboratory safety techniques, to construct their knowledge and understanding in all science content areas:

- Observe and ask questions about the natural environment;
- Plan and conduct simple investigations;
- Employ simple equipment and tools to gather data and extend the senses;
- Use appropriate mathematics with data to construct reasonable explanations;
- Communicate about observations, investigations and explanations; and
- Review and ask questions about the observations and explanations of others.

#### Theme: Interconnections within Systems

This theme focuses on helping students explore the components of various systems and then investigate dynamic and sustainable relationships within systems using scientific inquiry.

#### Grades 6-8:

During the years of grades 5-8, all students must use the following scientific processes, with appropriate laboratory safety techniques, to construct their knowledge and understanding in all science content areas:

- Identify questions that can be answered through scientific investigations;
- Design and conduct a scientific investigation;
- Use appropriate mathematics, tools and techniques to gather data and information;
- Analyze and interpret data;
- Develop descriptions, models, explanations and predictions;
- Think critically and logically to connect evidence and explanations;
- Recognize and analyze alternative explanations and predictions; and
- Communicate scientific procedures and explanations.

#### Theme: Order and Organization

This theme focuses on helping students use scientific inquiry to discover patterns, trends, structures and relationships that may be described by simple principles. These principles are related to the properties or interactions within and between systems.

## Ohio's New Learning Standards: Physical Science Grades 6-8

### Grade 4: Heat, Electricity and Matter

#### Content Statement:

**Energy can be transformed from one form to another or can be transferred from one location to another.**

#### Content Elaboration:

Note 4: Energy transfer (between objects or places) should not be confused with energy transformation from one form of energy to another (e.g., electrical energy to light energy).

### Grade 5: Light, Sound and Motion

#### Content Statement:

**The amount of change in movement of an object is based on the mass\* of the object and the amount of force exerted.**

Movement can be measured by speed. The speed of an object is calculated by determining the distance (d) traveled in a period of time (t).

Earth pulls down on all objects with a gravitational force. Weight is a measure of the gravitational force between an object and the Earth.

Any change in speed or direction of an object requires a force and is affected by the mass\* of the object and the amount of force applied.

#### Content Elaboration:

The motion of an object can change by speeding up, slowing down or changing direction. Forces cause changes in motion. If a force is applied in the same direction of an object's motion, the speed will increase. If a force is applied in the opposite direction of an object's motion, the speed will decrease. Generally, the greater the force acting on an object, the greater the change in motion. Generally, the more mass\* an object has, the less influence a given force will have on its motion. If no forces act on an object, the object does not change its motion and moves at constant speed in a given direction. If an object is not moving and no force acts on it, the object will remain at rest.

Movement is measured by speed (how fast or slow the movement is). Speed is measured by time and distance traveled (how long it took the object to go a specific distance). Speed is calculated by dividing distance by time. Speed must be investigated through testing and experimentation. Real-world settings are recommended for the investigations when possible.

An object that moves with constant speed travels the same distance in each successive unit of time. In the same amount of time, a faster object moves a greater distance than a slower object. When an object is speeding up, the distance it travels increases with each successive unit of time. When an object is slowing down, the distance it travels decreases with each successive unit of time.

*\*While mass is the scientifically correct term to use in this context, the NAEP 2009 Science Framework (page 27) recommends using the more familiar term "weight" in the elementary grades with the distinction between mass and weight being introduced at the middle school level.*

### Grade 6: Matter and Motion

#### Content Statement:

**There are two categories of energy: kinetic and potential.**

Objects and substances in motion have kinetic energy.

Objects and substances can have energy as a result of their position (potential energy).

#### Content Elaboration:

There are many forms of energy, but all can be put into two categories: kinetic and potential. Kinetic energy is associated with the motion of an object. The kinetic energy of an object changes when its speed changes. Potential energy is the energy of position between two interacting objects. Gravitational potential energy is associated with the height of an object above a reference position. The gravitational potential energy of an object changes as its height above the reference changes.

Note: Using the word "stored" to define potential energy is misleading. The word "stored" implies that the energy is kept by the object and not given away to another object. Therefore, kinetic energy also can be classified as "stored" energy. A rocket moving at constant speed through empty space has kinetic energy and is not transferring any of this energy to another object.

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## **Grade 7: Conservation of Mass and Energy**

### **Content Statement:**

**Energy can be transferred through a variety of ways.**

Mechanical energy can be transferred when objects push or pull on each other over a distance.

### **Content Elaboration:**

Mechanical energy is transferred when a force acts between objects that move one of the objects some distance with or against the force. The amount of energy transferred increases as the strength of the force and/or the distance covered by object increases. This energy transfer (work) stops when the objects no longer exert forces on each other.

## **Grade 8: Conservation of Mass and Energy**

### **Content Statement:**

**Energy can be transferred through a variety of ways.**

Mechanical energy can be transferred when objects push or pull on each other over a distance.

### **Content Elaboration:**

Mechanical energy is transferred when a force acts between objects that move one of the objects some distance with or against the force. The amount of energy transferred increases as the strength of the force and/or the distance covered by object increases. This energy transfer (work) stops when the objects no longer exert forces on each other.

### **Content Statement:**

**There are different types of potential energy.**

Gravitational potential energy changes in a system as the masses or relative positions of objects are changed. Objects can have elastic potential energy due to their compression or chemical potential energy due to the nature and arrangement of the atoms that make up the object.

### **Content Elaboration:**

Gravitational potential energy is associated with the mass of an object and its height above a reference point (e.g., above ground level, above floor level). A change in the height of an object is evidence that the gravitational potential energy has changed.

Elastic potential energy is associated with how much an elastic object has been stretched or compressed and how difficult such a compression or stretch is. A change in the amount of compression or stretch of an elastic object is evidence that the elastic potential energy has changed.

The different types of potential energy must be explored through experimentation and investigation that include the relationship of energy transfer and springs, magnets or static electricity.

## **Ohio's New Learning Standards: English Language Arts College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards Grades K-12**

### **Speaking and Listening**

#### **Comprehension and Collaboration:**

- Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
- Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.
- Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.

#### **Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas:**

- Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

### **Language**

#### **Vocabulary Acquisition and Use:**

- Acquire and use accurately a range of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

# Learning Experience Overview

## Essential Question

How we build a ramp that can quickly and efficiently transfer luggage from an airplane to a conveyor belt?

## Enduring Understandings

- Collaboration and following the engineering design process lead to more creative and effective solutions to problems.
- All energy can be put into two categories: kinetic and potential; each form can be transferred to another place or object. An object in motion has kinetic energy. Energy in an object that is “waiting” to happen (be put into motion) is the object’s potential energy.

## Design Challenge Problem/Scenario

You work as a line crewmember (a person that loads and unloads luggage) for an airline company. Because unloading luggage from an airplane by hand is time consuming and inefficient, you decide to try and come up with a better luggage transport system.

## Engineering Design Challenge

Your challenge is to design a more efficient system for transporting luggage straight from the airplane to the conveyor belt where passengers pick up their belongings. Your design must transfer marbles from an elevated cup (symbolizing the airplane) to a cup on a lower level (symbolizing the baggage claim area). You may use on provided materials and must finish in the time allotted.

## Prerequisite Knowledge & Skill (as connected to academic content standards)

- **Concepts Related to Energy in Grades PreK-2:** A variety of sounds and motions are experienced. The sun is the principle source of energy.
- **Concepts Related to Energy in Grade 3:** Objects with energy have the ability to cause change. Heat, electrical energy, light, sound and magnetic energy are forms of energy.

## Activity Timeframe and Overview (50 minutes)

Activity	Time	Overview
Introduction	2 minutes	Introduce Yourself Provide Brief Activity Overview to Foster Excitement
Pre-Assessment	3 minutes	Administer Kit’s Pre-Activity Survey
Design Challenge Introduction	10 minutes	Begin PowerPoint Presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Guide Discussion and Show Video (2m32s)</li><li>• Present the Engineering Design Challenge</li><li>• Explain the Engineering Design Process</li></ul>

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<b>Individual Brainstorm</b>	<i>2 minutes</i>	Team Members Individually: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write Solution Ideas on Post-It Notes</li> </ul>
<b>Prototype Design and Construction</b>	<i>15 minutes</i>	Teams Collaboratively: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss Individual Ideas</li> <li>• Choose and Sketch Final Idea for Approval</li> <li>• Gather Materials and Construct Team Prototype</li> </ul>
<b>Testing</b>	<i>10 minutes</i>	Perform and Observe Prototype Testing
<b>Conclusion</b>	<i>5 minutes</i>	Relate to Engineering; They Did What Engineers Do Connect to Types of Engineering
<b>Post-Assessment</b>	<i>3 minutes</i>	Administer Kit's Post-Activity Survey

### Material List

<b>Material</b>	<b>Quantity per Team</b>	✓	<b>Quantity per Kit</b>	✓
Craft Sticks	4		60	
Paper Towel Roll Halves	1		15	
Construction Paper	1 sheet		1 pack	
Straws	6		80	
String	1 yard		1 ball	
Tape	6 inches		80 inches	
Index Cards	6		80	
Marbles (for testing)	~		10	
Styrofoam Cups (for testing)	~		4	
Memory Stick <i>(With power point and handouts)</i>	~		1	
Pre-Activity Survey	1 (per student)		25 copies	
Post-Activity Survey	1 (per student)		25 copies	
Post-it Notes <b>OR</b> Paper <i>(For individual brainstorming)</i>	15 Post-its <b>OR</b> 3 sheets paper		2 packs Post-its <b>OR</b> 25 sheets paper	
Paper <i>(For team design sketch)</i>	1 sheet		15 sheets	

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# Instruction

## Instructional Sequence

*Note: The activity's PowerPoint presentation guides instruction and visually presents information to students. Therefore, the instructions include corresponding slide numbers.*

1. Slide 1: As the pre-activity survey is distributed to students, introduce yourself and provide enough of an activity overview to gain students excitement.
2. Allow time for students to individually complete their pre-activity survey.
3. Divide group into teams of 4 or 5 students each.
4. Slides 2 and 3: Discuss engineering and what engineers do.
5. Present the engineering design problem and challenge, following the presentation:
  - Slide 4: Show "Where does a bag go after it's checked? - Behind the Scenes @American Air" video (2m58s).
  - Slide 5: Present the real-world engineering design problem (scenario).
  - Slide 6: Introduce the Engineering Design Challenge.
  - Slide 7: Discuss Engineering Design Goals.
  - Slide 8: Introduce resources (materials) available to each team.
  - Slide 9: Explain prototype-testing procedures.
6. Slide 10: Introduce the Engineering Design Process. Explain that engineers use it as a tool to help them more effectively solve problems.
7. Slide 11: Explain the working process: How teams will use the engineering design process as they complete the challenge:
  - Imagine (10 min.)**
    - INDIVIDUALLY: observe available materials, and brainstorm and write design ideas (5 min.)
    - TEAM: share individual ideas (5 min.)
  - Plan (5 min.)**
    - Choose and sketch a team design plan
  - Create (10 min.)**
    - Gather materials
    - Construct your team design plan
  - Improve and Test (10 min.)**
    - Teams decide on and make any last minute improvements before testing.
    - Make sure the marbles are being properly transferred from the top cup (airplane) to the bottom cup (luggage rack). Students get 3 trials to test their design.
    - Each team tests their prototype while other teams observe.
8. Slide 12: Facilitate a whole group reflection on final prototype design and testing results by asking questions such as the following.
  - What do you like best about your design?
  - What do you like least about your design?
  - What aspects of other team designs stood out to you, and/or gave you ideas for improving your own team's design?

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- What modifications would you make if we had time to complete the design challenge again?
  - How did you use potential and kinetic energy in your design?
  - How does their process relate their process to engineering process?
9. Slide 13: Conclude by discussing the following questions as post-activity surveys are distributed.
- What ideas do you have for engineering a better world?
  - How can you turn ideas into reality?
10. Allow time for students to complete their post-activity survey.

## STEM Career Connections

### STEM Career Connection

- **Civil Engineer (CE)**: This activity shows how civil engineers need to incorporate the beginning and end destinations to properly build structures like bridges. Civil engineers are involved with building and designing buildings, bridges, water systems, dams, and other structures all around us in the world. This activity shows a small but important scale of that in an airplane and luggage example.
- **Mechanical Engineer (ME)**: During this activity, the students show signs of being a mechanical engineer because they have to think of how motors and gears move objects from one place to another. Though they aren't using motors, gears, and conveyer belts, they still need to understand the basics of moving objects and what is the best way to get those objects where they need to go. This is an example of a mechanical engineering working in a storage building, storage system designing company, or even a roller coaster designer.
- **Architect**: This can be connected to a civil engineer. See above.

## Assessments

- Pre-Activity Survey
- Post-Activity Survey

## References

Ohio's new learning standards. Ohio department of education. 08 Aug 2014. Retrieved from: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Ohio-s-New-Learning-Standards/Ohios-New-Learning-Standards>.

Where does a bag go after it's checked? - behind the scenes @ AmericanAir. *YouTube* 06 Jul 2012. Retrieved from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-5Zoj7IIM0>.