

# Unit 1B - Introduction to Robotics, VEXnet, and Autodesk (Engineering Design)

Content Area: **Science**  
Course(s): **Robotics**  
Time Period:  
Length: **17 Days**  
Status: **Published**

## **Title Section**

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## **Department of Curriculum and Instruction**



**Belleville Public Schools**

**Curriculum Guide**

**Robotics Academy (12)**

**Unit 1B - Introduction to Robotics VEXnet and Autodesk**

**Belleville Board of Education**

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Board Approved:

## **Unit Overview**

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In this unit, students will learn about what engineering is and what engineers do. The concepts of classical mechanics, design and iteration will be defined and worked through. Students will learn about how the field of robotics operates and how robots work. Students will learn about the role of robots in society and how they are used in all aspects of STEM education. core components of the VEX control system are - the Cortex Microcontroller, VEXnet Joystick and VEXnet Wireless link. They will also learn how they each function.

## **Enduring Understanding**

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- The major engineering concepts including classical mechanics, Design, CAD, Prototyping, manufacturing, and iteration will be featured.
- The concepts of how robots are have been developed to work in industry, and in research both in

autonomous and teleoperated control will be featured.

- The relationship between the different subsystems and how they come together to produce a functioning robot that will be able to complete a task will be introduced.
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- The concept of how the Vex Cortex Microcontroller coordinates the flow of all information and power on the robot is addressed. The demonstration of how the flow of electronic information is handled between the system components and the interface is featured. The concept that a robot is a very complex system of parts that must work together in order to achieve a desired goal is brought to the forefront of the presentation. The Electronic controls provided by a programmable controller like the VEX Cortex Microcontroller demonstrates that the robot is coordinate the operation of the different components and achieve its goal.

## Introduction to Engineering

- [Engineering](#)
- [Methodical](#)
- [Classical Mechanics](#)
- [Structural Design](#)
- [Manufacturing Design](#)
- [Innovation](#)
- [Quantitative Specifications](#)
- [Ideate](#)
- [Prototype](#)
- [CAD Models](#)
- [Assembly Drawings](#)
- [Manufacturing Plans](#)
- [Bill of Materials](#)
- [Maintenance Guide](#)
- [User Manuals](#)
- [Design Presentations](#)
- [Proposals](#)
- [Design Review](#)
- [Iterate](#)
- [Engineering Notebook](#)

## Introduction to Robotics

- [Robot](#)
- [Robotics](#)
- [Subsystem](#)
- [Manipulators](#)
- [Control System](#)
- [Sensors](#)
- [Central Processing Unit \(CPU\)](#)
- [Drivetrain](#)
- [Actuators](#)
- [Servo](#)
- [Ultrasonic Range Finder](#)
- [Gyroscope](#)
- [Light Sensor](#)
- [Optical Encoders](#)
- [Microcontroller](#)
- [Autonomous](#)

## Intro to VexNET

- [Microcontroller](#)
- [Bi-directional communication](#)
- [Debugging](#)
- [Downloading](#)
- [Interface](#)
- [Autonomously](#)
- [Jumpers](#)
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## Intro to AutoDraw

- [Computer Aided Design \(CAD\)](#)
- [Assemblies](#)
- [Animate](#)
- [Rendering](#)
- [Browser Menu](#)
- [Constraints](#)
- [Degrees of Freedom](#)
- [Bottom Up Modeling](#)
- [Top Down Modeling](#)
- [Views](#)

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## Essential Questions

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1. What does an engineer do?
2. What is something that you have used today that was designed by an engineer?
3. Why is classical mechanics such an important part of engineering?
4. How does having constraints placed on a design change the engineering process?
5. Why is making a prototype so important in the design process?
6. What have you learned from the iterative process?
7. How do robots benefit society?
8. Explain how the different subsystems work together.
9. How does the installation of sensors improve the functioning of the robot?
10. Explain how the microprocessor functions.
11. Explain how the VEXnet works.
12. Explain how you were able to use the joysticks in conjunction with the VEXnet system to pick up and score the bottles or cans in your classroom challenge.
13. Explain how you can improve your score in the classroom challenge using the control system of the robot.
14. Which items in the classroom require 3D modeling software in order to be designed and manufactured?
15. Which types of engineers use CAD and how do they use it for their day to day job?
16. Why do designers create virtual models?
17. What is the benefit to designers of being able to animate an assembly?
18. What would a designer use a rendered image of a design for?

## Exit Skills

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- demonstrate how classical mechanics is used in the engineering process.
- correctly produce entries into their engineering notebook.
- produce a prototype.

## **New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSL-S)**

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### [NextGen Science Standards](#)

SCI.9-12.HS-ETS1-1	Analyze a major global challenge to specify qualitative and quantitative criteria and constraints for solutions that account for societal needs and wants.
SCI.9-12.HS-ETS1-4	Use a computer simulation to model the impact of proposed solutions to a complex real-world problem with numerous criteria and constraints on interactions within and between systems relevant to the problem.
SCI.9-12.HS-ETS1-3	Evaluate a solution to a complex real-world problem based on prioritized criteria and trade-offs that account for a range of constraints, including cost, safety, reliability, and aesthetics, as well as possible social, cultural, and environmental impacts.
SCI.9-12.HS-ETS1-2	Design a solution to a complex real-world problem by breaking it down into smaller, more manageable problems that can be solved through engineering.

## **Interdisciplinary Connections**

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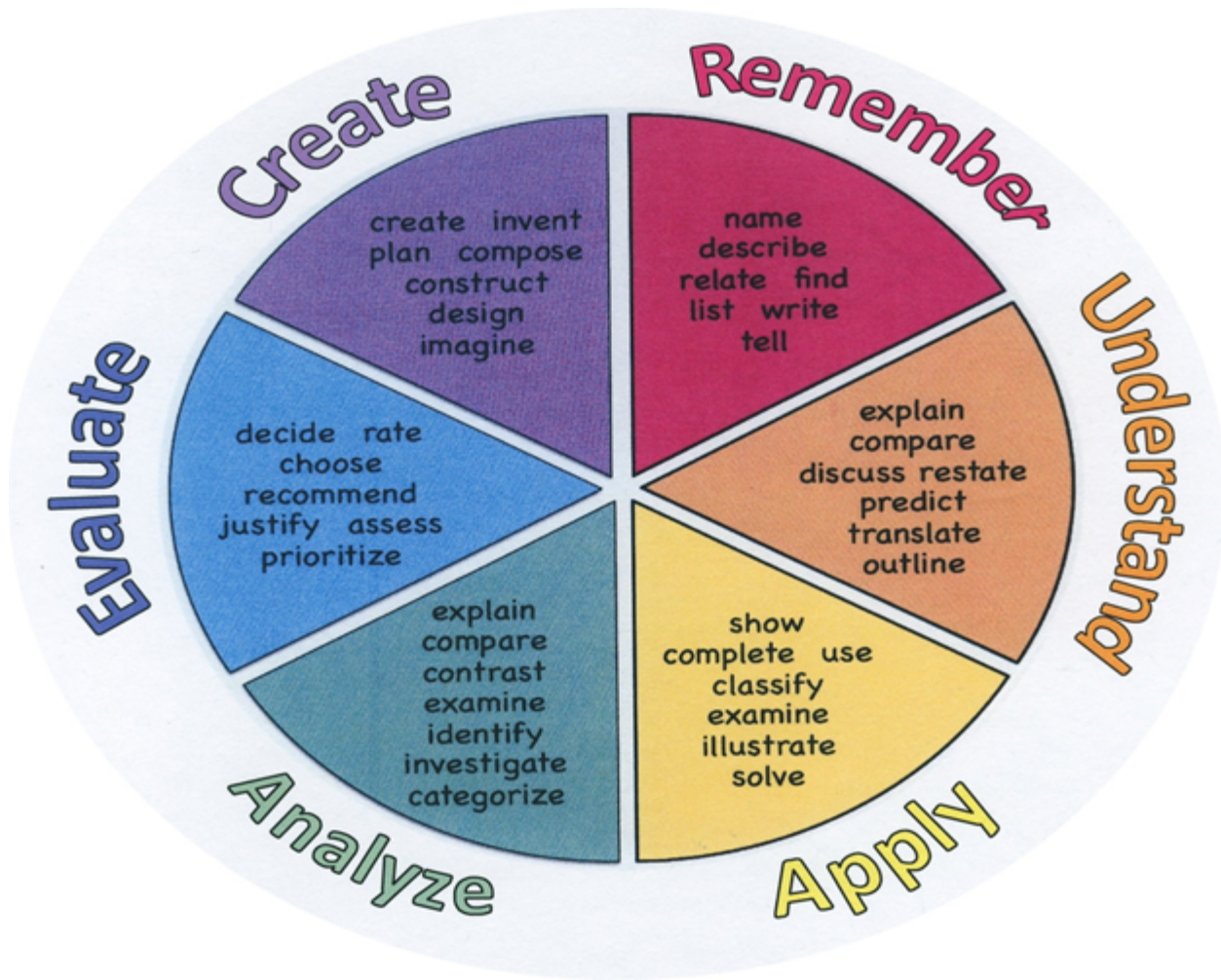
LA.RH.11-12.1	Accurately cite strong and thorough textual evidence, (e.g., via discussion, written response, etc.), to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to develop an understanding of the text as a whole.
LA.RH.11-12.2	Determine the theme, central ideas, information and/or perspective(s) presented in a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of how key events, ideas and/or author's perspective(s) develop over the course of the text.
LA.RH.11-12.3	Evaluate various perspectives for actions or events; determine which explanation best accords with textual evidence, acknowledging where the text leaves matters uncertain.
LA.RH.11-12.7	Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, qualitatively, as well as in words) in order to address a question or solve a problem.
LA.RH.11-12.8	Evaluate an author's claims, reasoning, and evidence by corroborating or challenging them with other sources.
LA.RH.11-12.9	Integrate information from diverse sources, both primary and secondary, into a coherent understanding of an idea or event, noting discrepancies among sources.
LA.RH.11-12.10	By the end of grade 12, read and comprehend history/social studies texts in the grades 11-CCR text complexity band independently and proficiently.
LA.RST.11-12.1	Accurately cite strong and thorough evidence from the text to support analysis of science and technical texts, attending to precise details for explanations or descriptions.

Determine the central ideas, themes, or conclusions of a text; summarize complex concepts, processes, or information presented in a text by paraphrasing them in simpler but still accurate terms.

## Learning Objectives

- The students will be able to demonstrate how classical mechanics is used in the engineering process.
- The students will be able to correctly produce entries into their engineering notebook.
- The students will be able to produce a prototype of their design.
- The students will be able to discuss how robots are used today in industry, research and in education.
- The students will be able to explain what the different basic components of a robot are and how they perform their function.
- The students will be able to correctly produce entries into their engineering notebook.
- The students will be able to assemble the VEX Clawbot using the directions provided in the kit.

Remember	Understand	Apply	Analyze	Evaluate	Create
Choose	Classify	Choose	Categorize	Appraise	Combine
Describe	Defend	Dramatize	Classify	Judge	Compose
Define	Demonstrate	Explain	Compare	Criticize	Construct
Label	Distinguish	Generalize	Differentiate	Defend	Design
List	Explain	Judge	Distinguish	Compare	Develop
Locate	Express	Organize	Identify	Assess	Formulate
Match	Extend	Paint	Infer	Conclude	Hypothesize
Memorize	Give Examples	Prepare	Point out	Contrast	Invent
Name	Illustrate	Produce	Select	Critique	Make
Omit	Indicate	Select	Subdivide	Determine	Originate
Recite	Interrelate	Show	Survey	Grade	Organize
Select	Interpret	Sketch	Arrange	Justify	Plan
State	Infer	Solve	Breakdown	Measure	Produce
Count	Match	Use	Combine	Rank	Role Play
Draw	Paraphrase	Add	Detect	Rate	Drive
Outline	Represent	Calculate	Diagram	Support	Devise
Point	Restate	Change	Discriminate	Test	Generate
Quote	Rewrite	Classify	Illustrate		Integrate
Recall	Select	Complete	Outline		Prescribe
Recognize	Show	Compute	Point out		Propose
Repeat	Summarize	Discover	Separate		Reconstruct
Reproduce	Tell	Divide			Revise
	Translate	Examine			Rewrite
	Associate	Graph			Transform
	Compute	Interpolate			
	Convert	Manipulate			
	Discuss	Modify			
	Estimate	Operate			
	Extrapolate	Subtract			
	Generalize				
	Predict				



**Suggested Activities & Best Practices**

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## **Assessment Evidence - Checking for Understanding (CFU)**

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Common, Department Quarterly Benchmarks (Benchmark)

Oncourse Assessment Tools (Formative)

Unit Test/Quiz (Summative)

"Do Now/Exit Ticket" Activity (Formative)

- Admit Tickets
- Anticipation Guide
- Common Benchmarks
- Compare & Contrast
- Create a Multimedia Poster
- DBQ's
- Define
- Describe
- Evaluate
- Evaluation rubrics
- Exit Tickets
- Explaining
- Fist- to-Five or Thumb-Ometer
- Illustration
- Journals
- KWL Chart
- Learning Center Activities
- Multimedia Reports
- Newspaper Headline
- Outline
- Question Stems
- Quickwrite
- Quizzes
- Red Light, Green Light
- Self- assessments
- Socratic Seminar
- Study Guide
- Surveys
- Teacher Observation Checklist
- Think, Pair, Share
- Think, Write, Pair, Share

- Top 10 List
- Unit review/Test prep
- Unit tests
- Web-Based Assessments
- Written Reports

## **Primary Resources & Materials**

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<http://curriculum.vexrobotics.com/>

<http://curriculum.vexrobotics.com/teacher-materials.html>

## **Ancillary Resources**

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Upon completion of this section, please remove all remaining descriptions, notes, outlines, examples and/or illustrations that are not needed or used.

Please list all additional resources that will be used to strengthen this unit's lessons.

## **Technology Infusion**

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Suggested Activities and Best Practices:

1. Google Classroom Assignment
2. QUIA Quiz
3. Pear Deck
4. VEXNET SOFTWARE

What **Technology Infusion** and/or strategies are integrated into this unit to enhance learning? Please list all hardware, software and strategies. Please find a technology pedagogy wheel for assistance while completing this section.



## **Alignment to 21st Century Skills & Technology**

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Mastery and infusion of **21st Century Skills & Technology** and their Alignment to the core content areas is essential to student learning. The core content areas include:

- English Language Arts;
- Mathematics;
- Science and Scientific Inquiry (Next Generation);
- Social Studies, including American History, World History, Geography, Government and Civics, and Economics;
- World languages;
- Technology;
- Visual and Performing Arts.

## **21st Century Skills/Interdisciplinary Themes**

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- Communication and Collaboration
- Creativity and Innovation
- Critical thinking and Problem Solving
- ICT (Information, Communications and Technology) Literacy
- Information Literacy
- Life and Career Skills
- Media Literacy

## **21st Century Skills**

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Please list only the **21st Century Skills** that will be incorporated into this unit.

- Civic Literacy
- Environmental Literacy

- Financial, Economic, Business and Entrepreneurial Literacy
- Global Awareness
- Health Literacy

## **Differentiation**

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### Content:

- Providing audio/visual supports for taking in text or other information
- Posing situations, problems, or dilemmas that vary by complexity, skill mastery, or background knowledge required
- Modeling or demonstrating
- Working with content/skills that are pre-requisite to targeted content/skills
- Varying the time allotted to take in/learn content

### Process:

- Giving tiered questions/organizers (same idea, different phrasing or emphasis, more/less support)
- Increasing/decreasing the facets of a task Increasing/decreasing the degree of scaffolding for a task
- Working more/less like an expert, practitioner, or professional
- Providing models of work at different levels of complexity
- Asking students to see content through a certain focus or lens

### Product:

- Varying the audience for the product (from closer to student experience/more familiar to further from student experience/less familiar)
- Varying the demands or sophistication of the product
- Having varied arrangements for working on a product
- Giving more or fewer check-in dates and chunks in progress of completing task
- Providing more or fewer givens or knowns (models/examples, resources, guidelines)

**Differentiations:**

- Small group instruction
- Small group assignments
- Extra time to complete assignments
- Pairing oral instruction with visuals
- Repeat directions
- Use manipulatives
- Center-based instruction
- Token economy
- Study guides
- Teacher reads assessments allowed
- Scheduled breaks
- Rephrase written directions
- Multisensory approaches
- Additional time
- Preview vocabulary
- Preview content & concepts
- Story guides
- Behavior management plan
- Highlight text
- Student(s) work with assigned partner
- Visual presentation
- Assistive technology
- Auditory presentations
- Large print edition
- Dictation to scribe
- Small group setting

**Hi-Prep Differentiations:**

- Alternative formative and summative assessments
- Choice boards
- Games and tournaments
- Group investigations
- Guided Reading
- Independent research and projects
- Interest groups
- Learning contracts
- Leveled rubrics
- Literature circles
- Multiple intelligence options
- Multiple texts
- Personal agendas
- Project-based learning
- Problem-based learning
- Stations/centers
- Think-Tac-Toes
- Tiered activities/assignments
- Tiered products

- Varying organizers for instructions

#### **Lo-Prep Differentiations**

- Choice of books or activities
- Cubing activities
- Exploration by interest
- Flexible grouping
- Goal setting with students
- Jigsaw
- Mini workshops to re-teach or extend skills
- Open-ended activities
- Think-Pair-Share
- Reading buddies
- Varied journal prompts
- Varied supplemental materials

## **Special Education Learning (IEP's & 504's)**

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#### Content:

- Providing audio/visual supports for taking in text or other information
- Posing situations, problems, or dilemmas that vary by complexity, skill mastery, or background knowledge required
- Modeling or demonstrating
- Working with content/skills that are pre-requisite to targeted content/skills
- Varying the time allotted to take in/learn content

#### Process:

- Giving tiered questions/organizers (same idea, different phrasing or emphasis, more/less support)
- Increasing/decreasing the facets of a task Increasing/decreasing the degree of scaffolding for a task
- Working more/less like an expert, practitioner, or professional
- Providing models of work at different levels of complexity

- Asking students to see content through a certain focus or lens

Product:

- Varying the audience for the product (from closer to student experience/more familiar to further from student experience/less familiar)
  - Varying the demands or sophistication of the product
  - Having varied arrangements for working on a product
  - Giving more or fewer check-in dates and chunks in progress of completing task
  - Providing more or fewer givens or knowns (models/examples, resources, guidelines)
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- printed copy of board work/notes provided
  - additional time for skill mastery
  - assistive technology
  - behavior management plan
  - Center-Based Instruction
  - check work frequently for understanding
  - computer or electronic device utilizes
  - extended time on tests/ quizzes
  - have student repeat directions to check for understanding
  - highlighted text visual presentation
  - modified assignment format
  - modified test content
  - modified test format
  - modified test length
  - multi-sensory presentation
  - multiple test sessions
  - preferential seating
  - preview of content, concepts, and vocabulary
  - Provide modifications as dictated in the student's IEP/504 plan
  - reduced/shortened reading assignments
  - Reduced/shortened written assignments
  - secure attention before giving instruction/directions
  - shortened assignments
  - student working with an assigned partner
  - teacher initiated weekly assignment sheet
  - Use open book, study guides, test prototypes

## English Language Learning (ELL)

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- teaching key aspects of a topic. Eliminate nonessential information
- using videos, illustrations, pictures, and drawings to explain or clarify
- allowing products (projects, timelines, demonstrations, models, drawings, dioramas, poster boards, charts, graphs, slide shows, videos, etc.) to demonstrate student's learning;
- allowing students to correct errors (looking for understanding)
- allowing the use of note cards or open-book during testing
- decreasing the amount of work presented or required
- having peers take notes or providing a copy of the teacher's notes
- modifying tests to reflect selected objectives
- providing study guides
- reducing or omitting lengthy outside reading assignments
- reducing the number of answer choices on a multiple choice test
- tutoring by peers
- using computer word processing spell check and grammar check features
- using true/false, matching, or fill in the blank tests in lieu of essay tests

## At Risk

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### Content:

- Providing audio/visual supports for taking in text or other information
- Posing situations, problems, or dilemmas that vary by complexity, skill mastery, or background knowledge required
- Modeling or demonstrating
- Working with content/skills that are pre-requisite to targeted content/skills
- Varying the time allotted to take in/learn content

### Process:

- Giving tiered questions/organizers (same idea, different phrasing or emphasis, more/less support)
- Increasing/decreasing the facets of a task Increasing/decreasing the degree of scaffolding for a task

- Working more/less like an expert, practitioner, or professional
- Providing models of work at different levels of complexity
- Asking students to see content through a certain focus or lens

Product:

- Varying the audience for the product (from closer to student experience/more familiar to further from student experience/less familiar)
  - Varying the demands or sophistication of the product
  - Having varied arrangements for working on a product
  - Giving more or fewer check-in dates and chunks in progress of completing task
  - Providing more or fewer givens or knowns (models/examples, resources, guidelines)
- 
- allowing students to correct errors (looking for understanding)
  - teaching key aspects of a topic. Eliminate nonessential information
  - allowing products (projects, timelines, demonstrations, models, drawings, dioramas, poster boards, charts, graphs, slide shows, videos, etc.) to demonstrate student's learning
  - allowing students to select from given choices
  - allowing the use of note cards or open-book during testing
  - collaborating (general education teacher and specialist) to modify vocabulary, omit or modify items to reflect objectives for the student, eliminate sections of the test, and determine how the grade will be determined prior to giving the test.
  - decreasing the amount of work presented or required
  - having peers take notes or providing a copy of the teacher's notes
  - marking students' correct and acceptable work, not the mistakes
  - modifying tests to reflect selected objectives
  - providing study guides
  - reducing or omitting lengthy outside reading assignments
  - reducing the number of answer choices on a multiple choice test
  - tutoring by peers
  - using authentic assessments with real-life problem-solving
  - using true/false, matching, or fill in the blank tests in lieu of essay tests
  - using videos, illustrations, pictures, and drawings to explain or clarify

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## **Talented and Gifted Learning (T&G)**

Content:

- Providing audio/visual supports for taking in text or other information
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- Modeling or demonstrating
- Working with content/skills that are pre-requisite to targeted content/skills
- Varying the time allotted to take in/learn content

Process:

- Giving tiered questions/organizers (same idea, different phrasing or emphasis, more/less support)
- Increasing/decreasing the facets of a task Increasing/decreasing the degree of scaffolding for a task
- Working more/less like an expert, practitioner, or professional
- Providing models of work at different levels of complexity
- Asking students to see content through a certain focus or lens

Product:

- Varying the audience for the product (from closer to student experience/more familiar to further from student experience/less familiar)
  - Varying the demands or sophistication of the product
  - Having varied arrangements for working on a product
  - Giving more or fewer check-in dates and chunks in progress of completing task
  - Providing more or fewer givens or knowns (models/examples, resources, guidelines)
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- Above grade level placement option for qualified students
  - Advanced problem-solving
  - Allow students to work at a faster pace
  - Cluster grouping
  - Complete activities aligned with above grade level text using Benchmark results
  - Create a blog or social media page about their unit
  - Create a plan to solve an issue presented in the class or in a text
  - Debate issues with research to support arguments
  - Flexible skill grouping within a class or across grade level for rigor

- Higher order, critical & creative thinking skills, and discovery
- Multi-disciplinary unit and/or project
- Teacher-selected instructional strategies that are focused to provide challenge, engagement, and growth opportunities
- Utilize exploratory connections to higher-grade concepts
- Utilize project-based learning for greater depth of knowledge

## **Sample Lesson**

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