

Ashwell Primary School
Design & Technology Curriculum
Skills & Knowledge Organiser – Mechanisms & Mechanical Systems



Mechanisms & Mechanical Systems – Key Stage 1

		Year 1 – Making a moving storybook	Year 2 – Fairground wheel	Year 2 – Making a moving monster
Skills	Design	Stand alone lesson – Lesson 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conducting simple surveys or discussions to gather opinions on what others need or like in a design. ▪ Knowing that a survey is used to find out what people like. ▪ Using a simple design brief that outlines the intended use, target user, and key features of the product, to create simple design criteria. ▪ Knowing that a design brief helps to decide what to make. ▪ Knowing that design criteria are the steps for making a product successful. ▪ Creating ideas with design criteria in mind. ▪ Referring to specific parts of existing products when generating ideas. ▪ Knowing that the design criteria help when thinking of ideas. ▪ Using labels to explain parts of a design, label materials, etc. ▪ Knowing that drawings can help explain how something works. ▪ Knowing that a label explains part of a drawing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creating a class design criteria for a moving monster. ▪ Designing a moving monster for a specific audience in accordance with a design criteria.
	Make		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Choosing materials, ingredients or components from a wider range of materials, ingredients or components. ▪ Explaining their choices based on the properties of materials and components. ▪ Knowing some properties of materials like hard, soft, flexible, waterproof, strong etc. ▪ Following and recalling simple safety instructions. ▪ Knowing that some tools are sharp like scissors and knives. ▪ Choosing known geometric shapes when making. ▪ Beginning to shape objects to improve how they work. ▪ Knowing the names of some geometric shapes: triangle, pyramid, square, cube, circle, sphere. ▪ Considering balance in their finishing, like evenly spaced decoration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Making linkages using card for levers and split pins for pivots. ▪ Experimenting with linkages adjusting the widths, lengths and thicknesses of card used. ▪ Cutting and assembling components neatly.

	Evaluate		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discussing a range of existing products and saying what they like and dislike about them. ▪ Evaluating existing products against design criteria. ▪ Evaluating their ideas and creations against simple design criteria. ▪ Knowing that design criteria help to decide if their product is a success. ▪ Suggesting improvements to their peers' designs and products. ▪ Knowing that improve means to make something better. ▪ Knowing that their suggestions can improve someone else's work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evaluating own designs against design criteria. ▪ Using peer feedback to modify a final design.
Knowledge	Technical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stand alone lesson – lesson 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To know everyday objects have mechanisms. ▪ To know many things that move have parts inside to help them work. ▪ To know mechanisms usually limit unwanted movement. ▪ To know everyday objects utilise wheels and axles. ▪ To know wheels must be able to turn to work effectively. ▪ To know axles, allow wheels to turn without falling off. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To know that mechanisms are a collection of moving parts that work together as a machine to produce movement. ▪ To know that there is always an input and output in a mechanism. ▪ To know that an input is the energy that is used to start something working. ▪ To know that an output is the movement that happens as a result of the input. ▪ To know that a lever is something that turns on a pivot. ▪ To know that a linkage mechanism is made up of a series of levers.
	Additional		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To know the features of a fairground wheel include the wheel, frame, pods, a base an axle and an axle holder. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To know some real-life objects that contain mechanisms.
Key Vocabulary	Adapt, assemble, design, design criteria, input, mechanism, model, sliders, test	design brief, design criteria, evaluate, frame, model, opinion, rotate, survey		Axle, design criteria, input, linkage, mechanical, output, pivot, wheel

Mechanisms & Mechanical Systems – Lower Key Stage 2

		Year 3 – Pneumatic toys	Year 4 – Making a slingshot car
Skills	Design	Stand alone lesson – lesson 1 and/or 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Designing a toy which uses a pneumatic system. ▪ Developing design criteria from a design brief. ▪ Generating ideas using thumbnail sketches and exploded diagrams. ▪ Learning that different types of drawings are used in design to explain ideas clearly.
	Make		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creating a pneumatic system to create a desired motion. ▪ Building secure housing for a pneumatic system. ▪ Using syringes and balloons to create different types of pneumatic systems to make a functional and appealing pneumatic toy. ▪ Selecting materials due to their functional and aesthetic characteristics. ▪ Manipulating materials to create different effects by cutting, creasing, folding and weaving.
	Evaluate		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Using the views of others to improve designs. ▪ Testing and modifying the outcome, suggesting improvements. ▪ Understanding the purpose of exploded-diagrams through the eyes of a designer and their client.
Knowledge	Technical	Stand alone lesson – lesson 1 and/or 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To understand how pneumatic systems work. ▪ To understand that pneumatic systems can be used as part of a mechanism. ▪ To know that pneumatic systems operate by drawing in, releasing and compressing air.
	Additional	▪	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To understand how sketches, drawings and diagrams can be used to communicate design ideas. ▪ To know that exploded-diagrams are used to show how different parts of a product fit together. ▪ To know that thumbnail sketches are small drawings to get ideas down on paper quickly.
Key Vocabulary		Mechanism, lever, pivot, linkage system, pneumatic system, input, output, Component, thumbnail sketch, research, adapt, properties, reinforce, motion	Chassis, energy, kinetic, mechanism, air resistance, design, structure, graphics, research, model, template

Mechanisms & Mechanical Systems – Upper Key Stage 2

		Year 5 – Making a pop-up book	Year 6 – Not Taught
Skills	Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Designing a pop-up book which uses a mixture of structures and mechanisms. ▪ Naming each mechanism, input and output accurately. ▪ Storyboarding ideas for a book. 	
	Make	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Following a design brief to make a pop-up book, neatly and with focus on accuracy. ▪ Making mechanisms and/or structures using sliders, pivots and folds to produce movement. ▪ Using layers and spacers to hide the workings of mechanical parts for an aesthetically pleasing result. 	
	Evaluate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evaluating the work of others and receiving feedback on own work. ▪ Suggesting points for improvement. 	

Knowledge	Technical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To know that mechanisms control movement. ▪ To understand that mechanisms can be used to change one kind of motion into another. ▪ To understand how to use sliders, pivots and folds to create paper-based mechanisms. 	
	Additional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To know that a design brief is a description of what I am going to design and make. ▪ To know that designers often want to hide mechanisms to make a product more aesthetically pleasing. 	
Key Vocabulary		Criteria, design, input, mechanism, model, motion, reinforce, research	