

1. Year Groups
Year 4

2. Aspect of D&T
Electrical systems
Focus
Simple circuits and switches

4. What could children design, make and evaluate?

A buzzer game

5. Intended users

younger children

6. Purpose of products

Pleasure

7. Links to topics and themes
Electrical Engineers

8. Possible contexts
home school leisure

9. Project title
Design, make and evaluate a wire buzzer game (product) for children in the Lanturn Hub (User) to improve coordination (purpose)
To be completed by the teacher. Use the project title to set the scene for children's learning prior to activities in 10, 12 and 14

3. Key learning in design and technology

Prior learning

- Constructed a simple series electrical circuit in science, using bulbs, switches and buzzers.
- Cut and joined a variety of construction materials, such as wood, card, plastic, reclaimed materials and glue.

Designing

- Gather information about needs and wants, and develop design criteria to inform the design of products that are fit for purpose, aimed at particular individuals or groups.
- Generate, develop, model and communicate realistic ideas through discussion and, as appropriate, annotated sketches, cross-sectional and exploded diagrams.

Making

- Order the main stages of making.
- Select from and use tools and equipment to cut, shape, join and finish with some accuracy.
- Select from and use materials and components, including construction materials and electrical components according to their functional properties and aesthetic qualities.

10. Investigative and Evaluative Activities (IEAs)

- Discuss, investigate and, where practical, disassemble different examples of relevant battery-powered products, including those which are commercially available e.g. *Where and why they are used? How does the product work? What are its key features and components? How does the switch work? Is the product manually controlled or controlled by a computer? What materials have been used and why? How is it suited to its intended user and purpose?*
- Ask children to investigate examples of switches, including those which are commercially available, which work in different ways e.g. push-to-make, push-to-break, toggle switch. Let the children use them in simple circuits e.g. *How might different types of switches be useful in different types of products?*
- Remind children about the dangers of mains electricity.

11. Related learning in other subjects

- **Science** – know how to construct simple series circuits and have a basic understanding of conductors, insulators and open and closed switches.
- **Spoken language** – participate in discussion and evaluation of battery-powered products. Ask relevant questions to extend knowledge and understanding. Build their technical vocabulary.

12. Focused Tasks (FTs)

- Recap with the children how to make manually controlled, simple series circuits with batteries and different types of switches, bulbs and buzzers. Discuss which of the components in the circuit are input devices e.g. switches, and which are output devices e.g. bulbs and buzzers.
- Demonstrate how to find a fault in a simple circuit and correct it, giving pupils opportunities to practise.
- Use a simple computer control program with an interface box or standalone control box to physically control output devices e.g. bulbs and buzzers.
- Ask the children to make a variety of switches by using simple classroom materials e.g. card, corrugated plastic, aluminium foil, paper fasteners and paper clips. Encourage children to make switches that operate in different ways e.g. when you press them, when you turn them, when you push them from side to side. Ask the children to test their switches in a simple series circuit.
- Teach children how to avoid making short circuits.

13. Related learning in other subjects

- **Science** – know how to construct simple series circuits and have a basic understanding of conductors, insulators and open and closed switches.
- **Computing** – design, write and debug programs that accomplish specific goals, including controlling physical systems.
- **Spoken language** – asking questions to check understanding, develop technical vocabulary and build knowledge.

14. Design, Make and Evaluate Assignment (DMEA)

- Develop a design brief with the children within a context which is authentic and meaningful.
- Discuss with children the purpose of the battery-powered products that they will be designing and making and who they will be for. Ask the children to generate a range of ideas, encouraging realistic responses. Agree on design criteria that can be used to guide the development and evaluation of the children's products, including safety features.
- Using annotated sketches, cross-sectional and exploded diagrams, as appropriate, ask the children to develop, model and communicate their ideas.
- Ask the children to consider the main stages in making and testing before assembling high quality products, drawing on the knowledge, understanding and skills learnt through IEAs and FTs.
- Evaluate throughout and the final products against the intended purpose and with the intended user, drawing on the design criteria previously agreed.
- Apply their understanding of computing to program and control their products.
- Know and use technical vocabulary relevant to the project.

15. Related learning in other subjects

- **Spoken language** – maintain attention and participate actively in collaborative conversations, staying on topic and initiating and responding to comments. Develop understanding through speculating, hypothesising, imagining and exploring ideas.
- **Science** – know how to construct simple series circuits and have a basic understanding of conductors, insulators and open and closed switches.
- **Computing** – design, write and debug programs that accomplish specific goals, including controlling physical systems.
- **Art and design** – using and developing drawing skills.

16. Possible resources

handling collection of battery-powered electrical products
switches including toggle, push-to-make and push-to-break

aluminium foil, paper fasteners, paper clips, card, corrugated plastic, reclaimed materials, finishing materials and media

buzzers, bulbs, bulb holders, zinc carbon or zinc chloride batteries, battery holders, wire, automatic wire strippers
suitable control program with interface box or standalone control box
right/left handed scissors, PVA glue, cutting mats

17. Key vocabulary

series circuit, fault, connection, toggle switch, push-to-make switch, push-to-break switch, battery, battery holder, bulb, bulb holder, wire, insulator, conductor, crocodile clip

control, program, system, input device, output device

user, purpose, function, prototype, design criteria, innovative, appealing, design brief

18. Key competencies

problem-solving teamwork negotiation
consumer awareness organisation motivation
persuasion leadership perseverance
other – specifv

19. Health and safety

Pupils should be taught to work safely, using tools, equipment, materials, components and techniques appropriate to the task. Risk assessments should be carried out prior to undertaking this project.

20. Overall potential of project

