



Department of  
Education

GOVERNMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



CURRICULUM RESOURCE MODULE

# Mini robot garden

YEAR 4



## Acknowledgements

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## The STEM Learning Project

The aim of the STEM Learning Project is to generate students' interest, enjoyment and engagement with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and to encourage their ongoing participation in STEM both at school and in subsequent careers. The curriculum resources will support teachers to implement and extend the Western Australian Curriculum and develop the general capabilities across Kindergarten to Year 12.

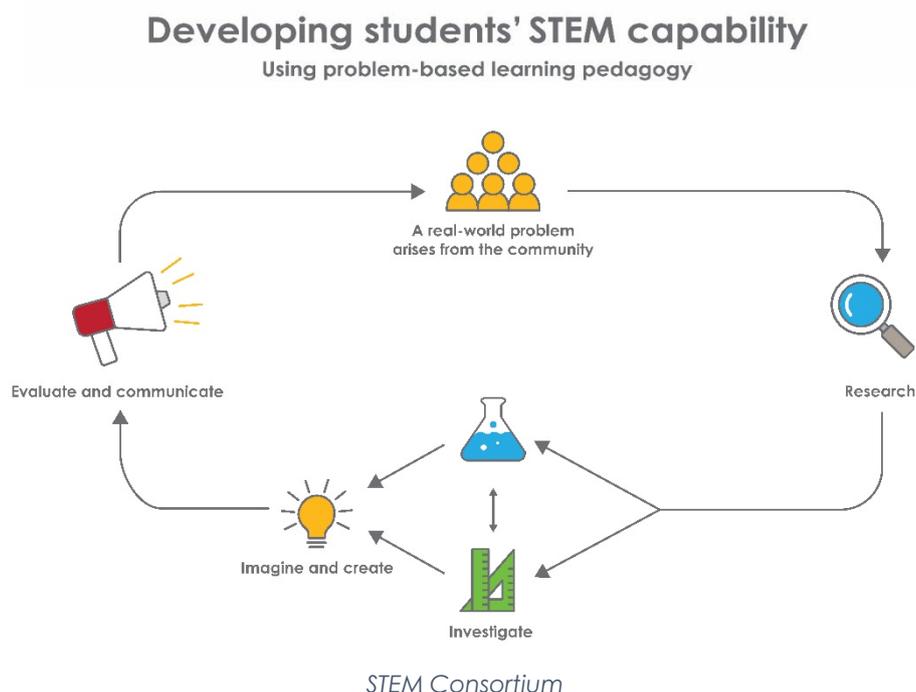
### Why STEM?

A quality STEM education will develop the knowledge and intellectual skills to drive the innovation required to address global economic, social and environmental challenges.

STEM capability is the key to navigating the employment landscape changed by globalisation and digital disruption. Routine manual and cognitive jobs are in decline whilst non-routine cognitive jobs are growing strongly in Australia. Seventy-five per cent of the jobs in the emerging economy will require critical and creative thinking and problem-solving, supported by skills of collaboration, teamwork and literacy in mathematics, science and technology. This is what we call STEM capability. The vision is to respond to the challenges of today and tomorrow by preparing students for a world that requires multidisciplinary STEM thinking and capability.

### The approach

STEM capabilities are developed when students are challenged to solve open-ended, real-world problems that engage students in the processes of the STEM disciplines.



## Year 4 – Mini robot garden

### Overview

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Home gardeners can grow an amazing amount of healthy and delicious foods in their own backyards. These backyard vegetable gardens provide a range of benefits such as:

#### **Nutrition**

At the supermarket, the freshness of vegetables is largely out of the buyer's control. However, if people grow their own fruit and vegetables, they have access to food that is high in nutrients, especially in phytochemicals, antioxidants, vitamin C, vitamin A and folate.

#### **Organic produce**

By growing their own fruit and vegetables, people can control the fertiliser, water and pest control used.

#### **Financial**

It is possible to save money by growing your own food. The price of a packet of seeds can be similar to the cost of a single vegetable or fruit.

#### **Exercise**

Gardening is a great way to engage in physical activity.

Over two-thirds of Australia's population live in major cities and a lack of time and space make it increasingly difficult to develop and maintain backyard vegetable gardens. With the increased use of automation and robotics in agriculture, there are opportunities to automate the care of vegetable gardens at home.

In this module, students explore the role of robotics and automation in developing a mini vegetable garden.

#### **What is the context?**

In cities, people are living in houses with smaller yards as well as spending more time away from home. This gives them less time and space to maintain a backyard vegetable garden.

#### **What is the problem?**

How can we use automation to sustain a garden?

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## How does this module support integration of the STEM disciplines?

### Science

Students engage in the Biological sciences strand of the Science syllabus while researching and investigating the conditions required to initiate and sustain plant growth (*ACSSU072: Living things have life cycles*). They develop an understanding of how living things depend on each other and the environment to survive (*ACSSU073: Living things depend on each other and the environment to survive*), and they are guided to identify questions, make predictions, plan and conduct an investigation on the factors needed for plant growth. Guided where necessary, students analyse and interpret their data and evaluate and communicate their findings to an authentic audience (*AC SIS065: With guidance, plan and conduct scientific investigations to find answers to questions, considering the safe use of appropriate materials and equipment*).

### Technology

Students investigate, design, produce, evaluate and collaborate when designing their mini robot garden (*WATPPS26: Work independently, or collaboratively when required, to plan, create and communicate ideas and information for solutions; WATPPS23: Develop and communicate design ideas and decisions using annotated drawings and appropriate technical terms; WATPPS25: Use criteria to evaluate and justify simple design processes and solutions*). They research technological practices used by fruit and vegetable gardeners (*ACTDEK012: Types of technologies used in food and fibre production or processing, including how they are used to help meet consumer needs*) and represent their data in a variety of ways (*ACTDIK008: Different types of data can be represented in different ways*). Students develop computational thinking when writing algorithms that use branching to design their product (*WATPPS21: Define a sequence of steps to design a solution for a given task* and *ACTDIP011: Use simple visual programming environments that include a sequence of steps (algorithm) involving decisions made by the user (branching)*) and there are opportunities for students to engage in coding using software and peripheral devices (*ACTDIK007: Digital systems and peripheral devices are used for different purposes and can store and transmit different types of data*).

The [Design process guide](#) is included as a resource to help teachers understand the complete design process as developed in the Technologies curriculum.

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## Mathematics

The activities provide students with the opportunity to develop mathematical skills focusing on chance and data; specifically recording, interpreting and analysing data. Students work in groups to consider how they will collect data and how to display the data using diagrams, tables or graphs and will be required to explain their choices (*ACMSP097: Evaluate the effectiveness of different displays in illustrating data features including variability*). Students construct suitable data displays, with and without the use of digital technologies, including tables and column graphs (*ACMSP096: Construct suitable data displays, with and without the use of digital technologies, from given or collected data. Include tables, column graphs and picture graphs where one picture can represent many data values*). Students need time and support to evaluate their data so they can be confident in the conclusions they draw.

Students design and build prototypes of their mini robot gardens and use scaled instruments to measure and compare lengths, masses, capacities and/or temperatures (*ACMMG084: Use scaled instruments to measure and compare lengths, masses, capacities and temperatures*). When designing their garden beds, students use informal means to compare the areas of regular and irregular shapes (*ACMMG087: Compare the areas of regular and irregular shapes by informal means*). When developing an input system for their mini robot gardens, students use simple scales, legends and directions to interpret the information contained in basic maps (*ACMMG090: Use simple scales, legends and directions to interpret information contained in basic maps*).

## General capabilities

There are opportunities for the development of general capabilities and cross-curriculum priorities as students engage with *Mini robot garden*. In this module, students:

- Develop problem-solving skills as they research the problem and its context (*Activity 1*); investigate parameters impacting on the problem (*Activity 2*); imagine and develop solutions (*Activity 3*); and evaluate and communicate their solutions to an audience (*Activity 4*).
- Utilise creative thinking as they generate possible design solutions; and critical thinking, numeracy skills and ethical understanding as they choose between alternative approaches to solving the problem of creating an automated system to look after a garden.
- Utilise personal and social capability as they develop socially cohesive and effective working teams; collaborate in generating solutions; adopt group roles; and reflect on their group work capabilities through self and peer evaluation.

- Utilise a range of literacies and information and communication technologies (ICT) capabilities as they collate records of work completed throughout the module in a journal; represent and communicate their solutions to an audience using digital technologies in *Activity 4*.
- Communicate and, using evidence, justify their group's design to an authentic audience.

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### What are the pedagogical principles of the STEM learning modules?

The STEM Learning Project modules develop STEM capabilities by challenging students to solve real-world problems set in authentic contexts. The problems engage students in the STEM disciplines and provide opportunities for developing higher order thinking and reasoning, and the general capabilities of creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration.

The design of the modules is based on four pedagogical principles:

- **Problem-based learning**  
This is an underlying part of all modules with every module based around solving an initial problem. It is supported through a four-phase instructional model: research the problem and its context; investigate the parameters impacting on the problem; design and develop solutions to the problem; and evaluate and communicate solutions to an authentic audience.
- **Developing higher order thinking**  
Opportunities are created for higher order thinking and reasoning through questioning and discourse that elicits students' thinking, prompts and scaffolds explanations, and requires students to justify their claims. Opportunities for making reasoning visible through discourse are highlighted in the modules with the icon shown here. 
- **Collaborative learning**  
This provides opportunities for students to develop teamwork and leadership skills, challenge each other's ideas, and co-construct explanations and solutions. Information that can support teachers with aspects of collaborative learning is included in the resource sheets.
- **Reflective practice**  
Recording observations, ideas and one's reflections on the learning experiences in some form of journal fosters deeper engagement and metacognitive awareness of what is being learnt. Information that can support teachers with journaling is included in the resource sheets.

These pedagogical principles can be explored further in the STEM Learning Project online professional learning modules located in Connect.

## Activity sequence and purpose

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### Activity 1



#### RESEARCH

##### What is a robot?

Students analyse the role robotic automation plays in society and research the role of robots in modern farming practices.

### Activity 2



#### INVESTIGATE

##### Investigating robots and plant growth

Students engage with systems thinking to understand how robots function and investigate the things plants need to thrive and grow.

### Activity 3



#### IMAGINE & CREATE

##### Designing an automated solution

Students to engage with design and computational thinking to create a mini robot garden, build a prototype and develop an algorithm for programming the robot to care for the garden.

### Activity 4



#### EVALUATE & COMMUNICATE

##### Robotics today

Students host an exhibition event showcasing their designs for a mini robot garden to a wider audience, then reflect on and evaluate their work.

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## Background

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<b>Expected learning</b>	<p>Students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Identify the conditions required to optimise plant growth.</li><li>2. Plan and conduct a scientific investigation, represent, analyse and interpret data, and evaluate the investigation.</li><li>3. Organise and communicate the findings of their investigation in the form of a multimedia presentation.</li><li>4. Explain what a robot is and how robotic automation can improve lives.</li><li>5. Engage in systems thinking by identifying how the parts of a 3D printer work together to form a system made up of sensors, motors, control systems and digital programs.</li><li>6. Develop and communicate design action plans and designs using annotated drawings.</li><li>7. Use a simple grid reference system, scales, legends and directional language to describe locations in a garden.</li><li>8. Work collaboratively to design and develop a mini robot garden.</li><li>9. Use simple programming techniques to make a robot perform a set task.</li><li>10. Evaluate the effectiveness of their design processes and solutions using an agreed set of criteria and personal reflection strategies.</li><li>11. Develop and communicate design ideas to an authentic audience.</li></ol>
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<b>Vocabulary</b>	<p>This module uses subject-specific terminology, some of which is shown in the <a href="#">Glossary</a>. The list contains terms that need to be understood either before the module commences or developed as they are used.</p>
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<b>Timing</b>	<p>There is no prescribed duration for this module. The module is designed to be flexible enough for teachers to adapt. Activities do not equate to lessons; one activity may require more than one lesson to implement.</p> <p>Teachers should plan for the plant growth investigation in <i>Activity 2</i> as this will require about three to four weeks.</p>
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**Consumable materials**

A [Materials list](#) is provided for this module. The list outlines materials outside of normal classroom equipment that will be needed to complete the activities.

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**Safety notes**

There are potential hazards inherent in these activities and with the equipment being used, and a plan to mitigate any risks will be required.

Potential hazards specific to this module include but are not limited to:

- Possible exposure to cyber bullying, privacy violations and uninvited solicitations when using the internet
  - Construction tools.
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**Enterprise skills**

The *Mini robot garden* module focuses on higher order skills with significant emphasis on expected learning from the general capabilities and consideration of what are enterprise skills.

Enterprise skills include problem-solving, communication skills, digital literacy, teamwork, financial literacy, creativity, critical thinking and presentation skills.

Further background on this is available from the Foundation for Young Australians in the article *The New Basics: Big data reveals the skills young people need for the New Work Order* (Foundation for Young Australians, 2016)

[www.fya.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/The-New-Basics\\_Web\\_Final.pdf](http://www.fya.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/The-New-Basics_Web_Final.pdf)

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**Assessment**

The STEM modules have been developed to provide students with learning experiences to solve authentic real-world problems using science, technology, engineering and mathematics capabilities. While working through the module, the following assessment opportunities will arise:

- *Interview with a vegetable*
- Concept map
- Growing plants investigation
- Blueprint
- Reflection

[Appendix 1](#) indicates how the activities are linked to the Western Australian Curriculum.

Evidence of learning from journaling, presentations and anecdotal notes from this module can contribute towards the larger body of evidence gathered throughout a

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teaching period and can be used to make on-balance judgements about the quality of learning demonstrated by the students in the science, technologies and mathematics learning areas.

Students can further develop the general capabilities of Information and communication technology (ICT) capability, Critical and creative thinking and Personal and social capability. Continuums for these are included in the [General capabilities continuums](#) but are not intended to be for assessment purposes.

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**Additional learning experience****School garden**

After engaging in this module, students could apply their knowledge to collaborate and create a large robot garden in an agreed area in the school or add a robot to an existing vegetable garden.

Endemic plant species could be planted, including native 'bush tucker' foods. A local Aboriginal Elder could be invited to speak about traditional ways of using the local plant species - this could be about food plants as well as other plant uses such as soap, dye or rope.

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## Activity 1: What is a robot?

### Activity focus



Students analyse the role automation plays in society and research the role robots are playing in modern farming practices.

### Background information

#### What is a robot?

Science fiction has created a perception that robots look like people and have a mind of their own. In practice, however, robots come in many shapes and sizes depending on its purpose.

A robot is a machine, controlled by a computer program that acts as a substitute for a person and/or manually operated device, doing things it has been programmed to do. Robots can be programmed to perform routine tasks.

#### Components

Most robots have three essential components: sensors, a control system that runs the program and actuators.

Sensors detect environmental stimuli and send this information to the control system. The program within the control system acts on the information from the sensor and responds by switching on the actuators (servos, motors).

A robot also needs a source of electrical energy in order to function and a physical structure to hold the robot's components.

#### Servo motors

Servo motors are small, energy-efficient motors that are used to operate remote or radio-controlled toys and in industrial settings such as automated manufacturing. A servo is generally an assembly of four things: a DC motor (a motor that uses DC current to convert electrical energy into mechanical energy), a gearing set, a control circuit and a position-sensor (usually a potentiometer). The position of servo motors can be controlled more precisely than those of standard DC motors. For more information see:

[www.jameco.com/jameco/workshop/howitworks/how-servo-motors-work.html](http://www.jameco.com/jameco/workshop/howitworks/how-servo-motors-work.html)

### Why use robots?

As robots are automated machines, they can perform mechanical and repetitive jobs faster, more accurately and often more safely than people. As such, robotic automation is providing industry with benefits such as more consistent and increased product quality, as well as greater productivity.

Despite the benefits of automation, robots are limited in their capacity to write their own programs. Therefore, the rise of robotic automation has also seen an increased demand for a workforce with the capacity to code and develop software.

### Robots in society

Robots are used by a variety of industries including manufacturing, primary industries, transport, medicine, science and defence. Examples of where robots are used include:

- Farming
- Vehicle assembly
- Packaging
- Electronics
- Automated, guided vehicles
- Artificial limbs
- Pharmaceuticals
- Surgery
- Bomb disposal
- Mining
- Space exploration

### Robots in farming

Agriculture and horticulture can be labour-intensive industries and robotic automation has the potential to increase productivity and impact the way primary producers operate.

The University of Sydney's Australian Centre for Field Robotics has produced experimental agricultural robots or 'agbots' that can carry out important farming tasks such as land preparation, seed sowing, irrigation, fertilising and harvesting. Some of these are:

#### RIPPA™

RIPPA™ (Robot for Intelligent Perception and Precision Application), is a production prototype for the horticulture industry. It is light and strong which makes it ideal for work in places such as vegetable crops or fruit orchards. RIPPA has been used for real-time fruit detection and is able to move easily between rows of trees and on uneven surfaces.

Mounted on top of the RIPPA is the VIIPA™ (Variable Injection Intelligent Precision Applicator). VIIPA™ is used for high-speed, spot spraying of weeds found within a crop.

### SwagBot

SwagBot is designed for livestock work and monitoring. It is an omnidirectional electric ground vehicle that can manage sloping, uneven terrain and avoid farm obstacles such as mud and trees. A major benefit on sprawling outback stations, SwagBot can herd cattle and keep them out of dangerous areas. Work is ongoing with SwagBot to enable it to do things such as monitor the health of livestock using temperature and motion sensors.

### Ladybird

Ladybird is an omnidirectional robot powered by batteries and solar energy and can easily move across paddocks. Ladybird uses several sensing systems such as thermal, infrared and hyperspectral to monitor and evaluate plant growth. A robotic arm provides the ability to remove weeds or harvest crops.

### Digital FarmHand

Digital FarmHand is a low-cost crop robot prototype. It can analyse row crops and automate basic farming chores. Digital FarmHand can be adapted to perform various farm tasks by using a hitch mechanism that can attach tools such as a weeder or seeder.

Source:

[confluence.acfr.usyd.edu.au/display/AGPub/Our+robots](http://confluence.acfr.usyd.edu.au/display/AGPub/Our+robots)

## **Instructional procedures**

Refer to [Teacher resource sheet 1.4: Think, Pair, Share](#) for more information relating to this cooperative strategy students will use in the activity.

Students use a jigsaw cooperative strategy when researching agricultural robots, see [Teacher resource sheet 1.2: Cooperative Learning – Jigsaw](#).

Students use their research to create an Adobe Spark (or similar) web page using [Student activity sheet 1.7: Primary industry robots \(Retrieval chart\)](#). Using this software tool provides students with the opportunity to develop ICT skills useful in environments beyond the classroom.

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<b>Expected learning</b>	<p>Students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explain what a robot is and how robots can improve lives (Technologies).</li> <li>2. Organise and display findings of research (Science and Technologies).</li> <li>3. Create and communicate ideas and information safely, using agreed protocols (Technologies).</li> </ol>
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<b>Equipment required</b>	<p><b>For the class:</b></p> <p>Whiteboard or interactive whiteboard</p> <p>Digital devices or laptops</p> <p><a href="#">Teacher resource sheet 1.6: Picture stimulus - Robots in society</a></p>
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**For the students:**

[Student activity sheet 1.5: What is a robot?](#)

[Student activity sheet 1.7: Primary industry robots \(Retrieval chart\)](#)

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<b>Preparation</b>	<p>Ensure students have access to resource sheets and appropriate links provided in <i>Digital resources</i>.</p>
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<b>Activity parts</b>	<p><b>Part 1: What is a robot?</b></p> <p>Facilitate a class discussion about robots using prompt questions such as:</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;"></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do you think about when you hear the word robot?</li> <li>• Are all robots the same?</li> <li>• What do robots do?</li> <li>• Are robots smart? Why/Why not?</li> </ul> </div> <p>Record the discussion on the whiteboard and address any misconceptions.</p> <p>Develop students' understanding of the components of a robot and the terms 'DC motor' and 'servo motor'. See <i>Background information</i>.</p> <p>Investigate the analogy of a robot being like a human in that they need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motors for movement</li> <li>• Sensors for detecting a stimulus</li> </ul>
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- Arms, claws or other apparatus for interacting with the environment
  - A control centre for processing inputs (from sensors) and outputs.

Students use the think-pair-share strategy to share ideas, see [Teacher resource sheet 1.4: Cooperative learning – Think, Pair, Share](#), and in their pairs complete [Student activity sheet 1.5: What is a robot?](#).

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## Part 2: Robots in society

Show students [Teacher resource sheet 1.6: Picture stimulus – Robots in society](#) and the *Medical Robots Are the Future of Surgery* video (see *Digital resources*).

Focus the students on the idea of robots helping humans. Ask students:

- Where can you see robots being used in everyday life?
- What are the benefits of using robots?
- Can you see any negatives?

Write the answers on the whiteboard for reference. Draw students' attention to the positives of using robots such as increased productivity, quality, safety and cost-saving.

Introduce the students to the concept of primary industry robots:

- Could robots be used to do work on farms, market gardens or orchards?
- What about in dairy and fishing industries or in timber production? What could these robots do?

Working in small groups, students use their devices to research primary industry robots like those being developed in Japan and at the University of Sydney (see *Digital resources*).

Using a jigsaw, see [Teacher resource sheet 1.2: Cooperative Learning – Jigsaw](#), students work in small groups to research one primary industry robot and record information to share with their peers. A video and voiceover could be used as an engaging way to record this information. Question prompts could include:

- What is it called?
  - What function does it serve?
  - How does it work?
  - How does it benefit the user?
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- 
- Describe the structure of the robot?
  - What do you notice about the inputs, outputs and peripheral devices, data (in and out as well as transmission) and connectivity?

Students collate the information from all groups using [Student activity sheet 1.7: Primary industry robots \(Retrieval chart\)](#) which will be used to create a web page in *Part 3*.

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### **Part 3: Adobe Spark page**

Discuss the following structural features of robots and identify those a farmer may want:

- **Inputs/outputs:**
  - Weeds detected/a claw that pulls weeds out
  - Birds detected/an alarm sound
  - Soil moisture/reticulation turned on or off
- **Peripheral devices:**
  - sensors (light, moisture, movement, pH etc)
  - cameras
  - waterproof keypad
  - solar panels
  - data display screens.
- **Data transmission:**
  - USB portholes in onboard computers in farm machinery;
  - Wi-fi transfer of data to and from onboard computers, hand held devices and laptops
  - Real time data transmission (soil moisture, milk production, harvest weights etc).

Continuing to work in groups, students use inspiration from their prior research to create a web page about a robot and the potential benefits it can offer farmers. Students can use *Adobe Spark* or similar software to create their web page. Information could be entered as text, drawings, photo, video or voice recording.

This is a good opportunity to discuss digital citizenship rules and behaviours for participating in an online environment (see *Digital resources*).

#### Part 4: Class reflection

Review student learning about robots and the role they play in society using focus questions such as:



- What is a robot?
- What are the major components of a robot?
- How do robots make our lives easier?
- Why are robots being introduced into agriculture?
- Student answers can be recorded digitally using a mind map tool such as Popplet.

#### Resource sheets

[\*Teacher resource sheet 1.2: Cooperative learning – Jigsaw\*](#)

[\*Teacher resource sheet 1.4: Cooperative learning – Think, Pair, Share\*](#)

[\*Student activity sheet 1.5: What is a robot?\*](#)

[\*Teacher resource sheet 1.6: Picture stimulus – Robots in society\*](#)

[\*Student activity sheet 1.7: Primary industry robots \(Retrieval chart\)\*](#)

#### Digital resources

*Medical Robots Are the Future of Surgery* (Motorward, 2018)  
[youtu.be/vugOOuq256M](https://youtu.be/vugOOuq256M)

*Our Robots* (Australian Centre for Field Robotics, University of Sydney, 2017)  
[confluence.acfr.usyd.edu.au/display/AGPub/Our+Robots](https://confluence.acfr.usyd.edu.au/display/AGPub/Our+Robots)

*Seeding the Future with Robots: Agriculture Goes High-Tech* (JVT.en, 2017)  
[youtu.be/Wj6Sq7lcon4](https://youtu.be/Wj6Sq7lcon4)

*Robotic Facts* (Idaho Public Television, n.d)  
[idahoptv.org/sciencetrek/topics/robots/facts.cfm](https://idahoptv.org/sciencetrek/topics/robots/facts.cfm)

*The Main Parts of a Robot* (Frank B. Chavez III, Sciencing, 2018)  
[sciencing.com/main-parts-robot-7403157.html](https://sciencing.com/main-parts-robot-7403157.html)

*Digital Citizenship* (Office of the eSafety Commissioner, n.d)  
[www.esafety.gov.au/education-resources/classroom-resources](https://www.esafety.gov.au/education-resources/classroom-resources)

Digital Citizenship (Common Sense Media, n.d)  
[www.commonsense.org/education/digital-citizenship](http://www.commonsense.org/education/digital-citizenship)

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Keynote  
[itunes.apple.com/au/app/keynote/id361285480?mt=8](https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/keynote/id361285480?mt=8)

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Haiku Deck  
[itunes.apple.com/au/app/haiku-deck/id536328724?mt=8](https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/haiku-deck/id536328724?mt=8)

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Adobe Spark  
[itunes.apple.com/us/app/adobe-spark-page/id968433730?mt=8](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/adobe-spark-page/id968433730?mt=8)

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## Activity 2: Investigating robots and plant growth

### Activity focus



In this activity students engage with systems thinking to understand how robots work and investigate what plants need to thrive and grow.

### Background information

#### Robots

The 3D printer provides a useful illustration of the components of robots and the range of movements they can make. The FarmBot agricultural robot is based on the same principles as the 3D printer.

#### 3D printer

3D printing is a process where three-dimensional solid objects are made using a digital file. Conventional printing occurs in only two dimensions, whereas three-dimensional printing adds a third dimension.

Objects are created by adding material layer by layer. To do this, the printer's computational algorithms convert information from a digital file into many horizontal layers.

3D printers heat a material, usually plastic filament, and extrude it to form each layer. The layers fuse together to build a three-dimensional object.

Parts of a 3D printer include:

- Print head
- Pulley/belts
- Extruder
- Motors
- Cooling fan
- Print bed
- Filament
- User interface
- Power supply.

#### Motion control

Cartesian printers move one or two motors along each of the X, Y, and Z axes. The name was derived from the Cartesian coordinates system. They have a rectangular build area and the printers have a cube-like shape.

Delta 3D printers have three arms that come together in the

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centre to suspend the extruder above the build area. These printers also use a Cartesian coordinates system to move around, but instead of moving one motor per axis at a time, all three arms move at different rates or times to precisely move the nozzle.

### FarmBot

FarmBot is a robotic backyard gardening product designed to provide people with small backyards and limited amounts of spare time with a way to grow a backyard garden.

The FarmBot is designed to work inside the space of a raised garden bed or garden box. The motion control of the FarmBot is like that of a Cartesian 3D printer. The robot works in three dimensions and moves using tracks on the sides of the box. It can go left to right, forward and backwards, and up and down.

However, unlike a 3D printer which extrudes materials to build 3D objects, the FarmBot uses this motion control to sow seeds, water plants and remove weeds using different attachments for each job.

The FarmBot is based on open source development program, meaning that the software and hardware are not licensed and are customisable for different uses.

Rory Aronson – the founder of Farmbot – explained the types of customisations you can make, *"If you want to use pesticides, you can do that. If you don't, you don't have to. If you want to water your plants in a certain way – maybe with mister nozzles, versus a shower nozzle, you can do that."*

### **Plant growth**

Green plants make their own food. They do this by absorbing light energy from sunlight and use it to combine water and carbon dioxide to make sugars in the process of photosynthesis (photo – light; synthesis – making). The sugars can then be converted into other carbohydrates, fats and proteins the plant needs to grow. To successfully grow crops such as herbs, vegetables, fruit or cereals there is a range of growing conditions that need to be met. These include:

#### Water

Plants access water from the soil through root systems but may also supplement water through dew and raindrops deposited on leaves and stems. To optimise growth the

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individual requirements of the plant needs to be considered and used to inform watering needs.

### Air

Plants absorb carbon dioxide from the air for photosynthesis. Oxygen, which is a product of photosynthesis is released back into the air and in turn used by other living things.

### Nutrients and soils

Plants use nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium to make all the carbohydrates, fats and proteins they need to make new plant cells and to grow. In traditional agriculture, plants absorb nutrients from the soil and fertilisers are used to replenish the supply of nutrients to the soil. In hydroponic agriculture, the plants grow in a medium such as gravel and nutrient rich water trickles through to the plants.

### Light

Plants need energy from sunlight for photosynthesis. When plants are grown in rows, lower leaves may be shaded and receive less sunlight. Too little light can reduce the productivity of plants, leading to less growth as well as fewer flowers and fruit.

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## **Instructional procedures**

The plants investigation needs careful planning to ensure that all the required materials will be available. The investigation may need to run for a few weeks to gather enough results for analysis.

The investigation provides rich opportunities for developing the inquiry skills associated with planning, conducting, analysing and evaluating investigations; and the mathematical processes associated with measuring, tabulating, graphing and analysing data.

When discussing 'fair' in science, students are likely to understand 'fair' in the context of a 'fair share', usually meaning each getting an equal amount of something. Students will need support to translate their understandings to a science context. A 'fair test' is about being sure that the experiment will answer the question being asked by controlling variables.

Students at this age will require examples to develop the ability to identify a fair test. Many examples can be provided in the Activities. For example, students can be

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questioned about the expected outcome of tests in which plants are in different locations or provided with different amounts of water.

Provide students with a minimal level of scaffolding for the collection and presentation of data. If the need arises, support students with the construction of tables and graphs to help them develop these skills.

It is recommended that students work in small groups. Mixed ability groups encourage peer tutoring and collaboration in problem-solving. Collaboration is an important STEM capability.

There is an opportunity to develop digital capabilities associated with the software students will use when producing their presentation. Editing software, such as *iMovie* or *Clips*, enables students to film and edit footage. Links to online tutorials for *Green Screen* technology have been included in *Digital resources*.

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**Expected learning**

Students will be able to:

1. Identify the conditions required to optimise plant growth (Science).
2. Identify a question for their investigation and make a prediction based on prior knowledge (Science).
3. Plan and conduct a science investigation (Science).
4. Represent their observations in tabular and graphical form and identify patterns in data (Science, Mathematics).
5. Organise and communicate the findings of their investigation in the form of a multimedia presentation (Science, Technologies).

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**Equipment required****For the class:**

Whiteboard or interactive whiteboard

Digital devices or laptops

Graph paper (as required)

[Teacher resource sheet 2.3: Picture stimulus – Growing vegetables](#)

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**For the students:**

[Student activity sheet 2.1: Parts of a 3D printer](#)

[Student activity sheet 2.2: Venn diagram](#)

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[Student activity sheet 2.4: I think, I see, I wonder](#)

[Student activity sheet 2.5: Mind map](#)

[Student activity sheet 2.6: Plants investigation](#)

[Students activity sheet 2.7: Storyboarding](#)

## Preparation

Prepare stimuli pictures.

Ensure students have access to resource sheets or appropriate technology.

## Activity parts

### Part 1: Introduction

Review the features of robots and why they have a role to play in agriculture:

- What are the main parts of a robot? What does each part do?
- How could robots be useful in growing crops? Why?
- What movements would a robot need to make to look after plants? Why?

Use 'why' and 'because' to prompt deeper thinking and to elicit reasons for answers. Practice increased wait time to allow students to think and reflect on answers.

### Part 2: How does a 3D printer work?

A 3D printer is a robot and is a good illustration of the movements required for an agricultural robot.

Focus students on the idea of 3D printers by asking:

- What is a 3D printer? What is their function?
- How do you think it works?
- How can they assist us in our everyday lives?

Show students a video clip about how a 3D printer works. See links in *Digital resources*.

Engage students in systems thinking by asking them to examine or deconstruct a 3D printer and complete [Student activity sheet 2.1: Parts of a 3D printer](#).

Working in small groups, students analyse how the parts work together within an X, Y, Z three-dimensional space. These three dimensions of movement are required for agricultural robots.

Students use their arms to represent the push-pull function of the motors and replicate the movement of a 3D printer.

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### Part 3: FarmBot

Show students the *Meet FarmBot* video in *Digital resources*.

Discuss the form and function of the FarmBot. Identify the FarmBot's parts, paying attention to how it can move in a 3D space. Students identify the similarities and differences between the 3D printer and the FarmBot using [Student activity sheet 2.2: Venn diagram](#).

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### Part 4: Growing vegetables

Show students [Teacher resource sheet 2.3: Picture stimulus – Growing vegetables](#) and use [Student activity sheet 2.4: I see, I think, I wonder](#) to explore the questions and ideas they have as they view the images. Alternatively, students could visit the school vegetable garden.

*I see, I think, I wonder* is a thinking routine that develops visual literacy and encourages students to make careful observations and thoughtful interpretations, stimulating curiosity and inquiry.

Students develop a concept map detailing what they know about growing vegetables including the inputs and outputs of a vegetable garden. Software such as *Popplet* or [Student activity sheet 2.5: Mind map](#) might be useful.

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### Part 5: Investigation: What plants need to grow

In *Activity 3*, students design a robotic (automated) garden solution. To ensure the needs of the plants are met, students first investigate those needs.

#### Planning the investigation

The investigation plan can be developed through class discussion, with the plan documented on the interactive whiteboard.

Students can record their findings on [Student activity sheet 2.6: Plants investigation](#).

There are several variables students can investigate in order to determine the optimal conditions for plant growth. These include light, water, air, nutrients (fertiliser) and soil. The class could decide that all groups will investigate the same variable, or each group might choose a different variable.

Support students to identify a question for an investigation that refers to the variable being changed (the independent

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variable) and the variable being observed (dependent variable). For example: *Is soil* (the independent variable) *necessary for plant growth* (the dependent variable)?

Students can then make a prediction about what they think may happen in the investigation. For example, they might predict that: *The plants will not grow without soil because soil provides food and water for the plants.* In this case the prediction is in two parts connected by the word 'because'. The first part predicts the outcome (the plants will not grow without soil) and the second part suggests a reason (soil provides food and water for the plants). This is an example of reasoning. Initiate class discussion by asking:

- What are we trying to find out?
- What do plants need to grow?
- Where do plants obtain these things?
- Can we write this as a question? What things do we need to say in the question?
- What do you think will happen? Can you make a prediction?
- Why do you think that will happen?

Challenge students to design a fair test to determine the factors that optimise plant growth.

Prompt student thinking about the plan for their investigation by asking:



- How will we investigate our question?
- What will we change? What will we keep the same to make it a fair test?
- What will we observe?
- How will we record our observations?
- How many plants will we need?
- What will we grow them in?
- Where will we grow them?

### **Conducting the investigation**

To allow differences in growth to emerge, the investigation should occur over an extended period. Plants such as mung beans that germinate and grow quickly, or young seedlings, are good options. Explain to students they will work in their groups to investigate the effect of their factor on plant growth. Remind them that in a fair test investigation they only change one variable.

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Assist students to understand that to decide whether or not a particular aspect of plant growth (e.g. water, soil, fertilizer or sunlight) results in improved plant growth, it is best to have several plants, rather than just the one.

There is opportunity to discuss variation and expected variation. You could use the variation in student heights at different ages to make the point that one example can be misleading. Ask:



- Why aren't all Year 4 students exactly the same height?
- What about all Year 4 born in a single month, why might they still vary in height?
- Would you expect to see a Year 4 student as tall as the teacher, or as short as a kindergarten student?
- What is the expected variation in height in our Year 4 class?

Draw out that most Year 4 students fit within an expected range of height, some are a little shorter and some taller, but most Year 4 students are taller than most Year 3 students. Tell them it would be the same with plants, some seeds might grow a little faster and a little more than others, even if all of the factors are the same, so just experimenting with one plant with, and one without the independent variable, could be misleading. Students should decide to set up several plants in each category.

Discuss with students what data they might collect as part of their experiment and how they will measure their plants' growth.

Support students to develop a method to record their observations about the investigation, building on ideas developed in the previous class discussion. Ask students to consider the information they will record and how they will do this in a way that is best for all users to understand.

Conclusions from student findings about the effect of light, water or nutrients on plant growth may lead students to decide it is best for certain plants to receive an application of fertiliser. Observations of growth could be made two days per week so that six sets of measurements are collected over three weeks which would be enough for analysis.

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Plant growth has several attributes. The length of stems can be measured and recorded, and the number of leaves counted to provide quantitative measures of growth.

Plant stems are difficult to measure with a ruler. It is easier to use string to measure the lengths and then place the string against a ruler to obtain a measure in formal units.

Quantitative data should be recorded in a table as it is collected. The colour of leaves gives an indication of the health of the plants and colours can be documented as descriptions or as digital images.

### **Analysing the observations**

Tables and graphs can be used to represent data and enable students to identify differences and trends. An interactive whiteboard could be used to engage students in co-designing data tables and graphs.

Students need to decide on the best measure of plant growth. For example, if there are equal numbers of plants in the experimental and control groups, the lengths of individual plants could be summed to give total length. Similarly, the total number of leaves could be calculated.

The tabulated data can be used to compare the growth of plants in experimental and control groups to determine if their predictions about the needs of plants were supported by their observations.

The students' data could then be re-represented as a graph so that the pattern of growth of the plants over time can be identified and described. Graphing could be a shared construction by the class or be completed by students.

At this age, students are exploring ways of presenting data and showing the results of investigations using many-to-one correspondence.

Students will have had experience with bar or column graphs. This context provides an opportunity for introducing two different types of graphs that would fit the data; **side by side column graphs** where data from the experimental and the control plants are compared in columns next to each other, and, **line graphs** where the base line is set up as a continuous number time line covering the length of the experiment. Students can be assisted to see why it makes sense to join the heights of a plant measured at different

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times to approximate what the height might have been at different times between the measurements.

Discuss with students which kinds of data are best shown in side by side column graphs (e.g. discrete data as in the number of leaves) and which kinds of data can be represented as line graphs (continuous data collected over time as in the overall height of the plants).

Spreadsheet and graphing programs can be used to collate data and construct graphs digitally, as a class demonstration or by students if they are experienced in their use.

The results of the student investigations will help inform the most important factors their automated solution would need to address. Using a 5-why strategy (asking why after each response for a total of 5 responses) will encourage students to think more critically about the growth of the plants. The following question prompts could be used as a stimulus for the 5-why strategy:



- Why do you think these plants had the most growth?
- Are there factors these plants have in common that contributed to their growth?
- What about the plants that experienced the least growth?
- How could identifying the commonalities help us in drawing conclusions about plant growth?

Encourage class discussion of the results by asking:



- Which factor/s caused the changes you observed?
- Which plants made the least/most growth? What does that tell you about plant requirements?
- Which of our predictions was supported by our observations? How do you know? ... because...
- How can we answer our investigation question?
- What would you write as the answer to your question?
- Do you have enough data to form a conclusion? What is your conclusion?

### Evaluating the investigation

This is a complex investigation that provides many opportunities for developing science inquiry skills and mathematical processes of representing and analysing numerical data.

A thorough debriefing of the investigation can help to clarify and extend students' thinking. Prompt questions

could include:



- Did your investigation go to plan? What worked well? Why? How could you have improved your plan?
- How effective was the design for your table? Why? ...because...
- Was it difficult to draw your graph? Why?
- What made some graphs better for showing your data than others?
- What differences did you find between tables and graphs for showing your data?
- What did you find from your investigation? What was your conclusion? How do you know this to be true?
- What is the main thing you learnt from this activity?

### Additional learning experience – Multimedia presentation

To communicate the findings of the experiment to a wider audience, students produce a multimedia presentation for a DIY gardening show called *Interview with a vegetable*.

Using the information from the science investigation and mind maps, students plan a multimedia presentation that includes the conditions for sustained plant growth – light, soil, water, air, nutrients.

Students work in small groups to storyboard their multimedia presentation using [Students activity sheet 2.7: Storyboarding](#). Together they allocate roles, sketch out the dialogue and structure of the presentation including visuals, backgrounds (green screen), music and dialogue.

Students create their multimedia presentation using digital software such as *Clips* or *iMovie* and use *Chatterpix Kids* to animate vegetables communicating their needs.

### Part 6: Class reflection

Use the following focus questions to review student learning about what is required to maintain plant growth:



- What do plants require to grow well? How do you know this?
- How can we use this new information to help us develop an automated garden solution?

Students add new learning from their investigation of robots, their science investigation and multimedia presentations to their mind maps from *Activity 1*.

**Resource sheets**

[Student activity sheet 2.1: Parts a 3D printer](#)

[Student activity sheet 2.2: Venn diagram](#)

[Teacher resource sheet 2.3: Picture stimulus – Growing vegetables](#)

[Student activity sheet 2.4: I think, I see, I wonder](#)

[Student activity sheet 2.5: Mind map](#)

[Student activity sheet 2.6: Plants investigation](#)

[Student activity sheet 2.7: Storyboarding](#)

**Digital resources**

CNN Explains 3D Printing (CNN, 2013)

[youtu.be/e0rYO5YI7kA](https://youtu.be/e0rYO5YI7kA)

Meet FarmBot (Farmbot, 2016)

[youtu.be/uNkADHZStDE](https://youtu.be/uNkADHZStDE)

What is 3D Printing and how does it work? – Mashable (Mashable, 2014)

[youtu.be/Vx0Z6LplaMU](https://youtu.be/Vx0Z6LplaMU)

How does 3D printing work? | RMIT University (RMIT, 2013)

[youtu.be/oilby1GbXFQ](https://youtu.be/oilby1GbXFQ)

Explaining to a kid, How does 3D orienting work? (3drucken.ch, 2015)

[youtu.be/-ydWVzjG0t8](https://youtu.be/-ydWVzjG0t8)

The anatomy of a 3D printer / How a 3D printer's movement works (MatterHackers, 2017)

[youtu.be/kNLTGE61LOM](https://youtu.be/kNLTGE61LOM)

Anatomy of a 3D Printer (MatterHackers)

[www.matterhackers.com/articles/anatomy-of-a-3d-printer](https://www.matterhackers.com/articles/anatomy-of-a-3d-printer)

How to Start a Vegetable Garden (Bunnings)

[www.bunnings.com.au/diy-advice/garden/planting-and-growing/how-to-start-a-vegetable-garden](https://www.bunnings.com.au/diy-advice/garden/planting-and-growing/how-to-start-a-vegetable-garden)

Clips

[itunes.apple.com/au/app/clips/id1212699939?v0=www-au-clips-app](https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/clips/id1212699939?v0=www-au-clips-app)

iMovie

[itunes.apple.com/us/app/imovie/id377298193?mt=8](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/imovie/id377298193?mt=8)

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Chatterpix Kids

[itunes.apple.com/au/app/chatterpix-kids/id734046126?mt=8](https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/chatterpix-kids/id734046126?mt=8)

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Chatterpix – Tutorial (Duck Duck Moose, 2013)

[youtu.be/7tBS9NyFV08](https://youtu.be/7tBS9NyFV08)

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Green Screen by Do Ink

[itunes.apple.com/au/app/green-screen-by-do-ink/id730091131?mt=8](https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/green-screen-by-do-ink/id730091131?mt=8)

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Green Screen by Do Ink – Video Tutorial (Do Ink, 2016)

[youtu.be/l4YVqbaWoDU](https://youtu.be/l4YVqbaWoDU)

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Popplet

[itunes.apple.com/au/app/popplet/id374151636?mt=8](https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/popplet/id374151636?mt=8)

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Popplet tutorial (Adam Bellow, 2011)

[youtu.be/CxLDsWHsQ1g](https://youtu.be/CxLDsWHsQ1g)

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Storyboarding (Khan Academy, 2018)

[www.khanacademy.org/partner-content/pixar/storytelling/film-grammar/v/storyboarding-scene](https://www.khanacademy.org/partner-content/pixar/storytelling/film-grammar/v/storyboarding-scene)

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Storyboard creator (Storyboardthat, 2018)

[www.storyboardthat.com/storyboard-creator](https://www.storyboardthat.com/storyboard-creator)

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How to storyboard a scene with Smurfs director Kelly Asbury - TIFF Kids 2017 (TIFF Originals, 2017)

[youtu.be/wJXKRFgbnHA](https://youtu.be/wJXKRFgbnHA)

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## Activity 3: Finding a robotic solution

### Activity focus



This activity requires students to engage with design and computational thinking to design a garden, design and build a prototype robot and develop an algorithm for programming the robot to care for the garden.

### Background information

To create a mini robot garden, students will need to engage with the design process.

The [Design process guide](#) is included as a resource to help teachers understand the complete design process as developed in the Western Australian Technologies curriculum.

#### Design thinking

This activity requires students to develop and follow a design brief, draw and annotate plans and construct a working prototype of the garden and robot that satisfies the design brief. The design brief should be jointly created by the students with teacher support and be made available to students to guide the design process.

Access to a 3D printer should be considered for final designs.

#### Coding and computational thinking

Students need to develop a way of programming their mini robot prototype. This can be done by using unplugged coding techniques which may require immersing the students in coding and computational thinking activities (see *Digital resources*).

Programs such as *Raspberry Pi* or *Hummingbird Robotics Kits* are examples of tools that students may choose to use to create a working robot. Video tutorials or online instructions would be helpful to students who are unfamiliar with the technology. See links in *Digital resources*.

### Instructional procedures

#### Creating the design brief

The teacher should act as a facilitator during this activity and encourage students to collaboratively develop the design brief. This will give students ownership of the creative process and an opportunity to fully engage with the design process.

If students are using the school's existing robot resources, they may need to use simulations to represent what a robot might do in particular circumstances. For example, if students want to design an obstacle-avoiding, weed killing robot which sprays a solution onto weeds, they could program a robot (eg Sphero) to be obstacle-avoiding and light up or spin around to simulate spraying a solution when it detects a 'weed'.

Students could produce an accompanying diagram of their robot to explain how it works.

### Expected learning

Students will be able to:

1. Develop and communicate design action plans and designs using annotated drawings (Technologies).
2. Use a simple grid reference system, scales, legends and directional language to describe locations in a garden (Mathematics).
3. Work collaboratively to design and construct a mini robot garden (Technologies).
4. Use simple programming (unplugged coding) techniques to program a robot (Technologies).

### Equipment required

#### For the class:

Devices or digital cameras

#### For the students:

See [Materials list](#)

[Student activity sheet 1.5: What is a robot?](#)

[Student activity sheet 3.1: Prototype troubleshooting](#)

[Student activity sheet 3.2: Design review](#)

### Preparation

Students will be participating in this task in groups. It may be necessary to consider group dynamics for this task.

Ensure students have access to resource sheets.

Gather a range of resources that students may use to create a classroom version of their robot. This might include:

- Robots from within the school
- Devices with apps such as *Scratch* or *Hopscotch*
- 3D printer
- *Lego*
- Woodwork or metalwork materials

- Construction materials – see [Materials list](#)

If students are building a working robot, the working parts will need to be sourced (eg servo, motor etc).

## Activity parts

### Part 1: Garden design

Explain to students that they are going to use the knowledge they have gained about automated systems and plant growth to design a garden with an automated maintenance solution.

The first task is to design a garden that could have an automated system installed. As a class, discuss the objectives of the task:



- What will the dimensions of your garden be?
- What could it be made from?
- What types of plants will you include?

Organise the students into groups and ask them to discuss their design ideas. Provide them with [Student activity sheet 1.5: What is a robot?](#) from *Activity 1* to support them in the design process. As the students complete this activity, encourage them to explain and justify their choices.

After the groups have made decisions about their garden design, they create a plan and visual representation.

Choices could include:

- A plan on grid paper
- A large-scale floor plan
- *Microsoft PowerPoint* or *Paint* design
- 3D design on *TinkerCad* or *SketchUp*
- Box construction.

### Part 2: Integrating technology

Gather the class in their groups with their completed garden designs and inform them that the next task is to incorporate automation. Ask the students to discuss in their groups what role a robot (automated system) could play in maintaining their garden. Have students record their ideas in their learning journals. Encourage the groups to share their ideas with the class.

Possible robotic (automated) options could include:

- Watering system
- System to provide maximum sunlight throughout the day
- Soil moisture measuring robot

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- Weed removing robot
  - Seed planting robot.

Ask the groups to discuss the function they would like the robot (automated system) to perform. When they have made a collective decision, ask each group member to draw and annotate a diagram of their idea. The diagram should include the materials the parts will be made from and the specific functions the parts will perform. Next, have students share their designs with their group. Ask the students to discuss the best aspects of each other's design. Continue this process and have the groups finalise a design incorporating the strong features of each group member's design.

Explain to the groups that they have two tasks to complete:

- Create a final design of the robot (automated system) they intend to prototype
- Brainstorm a way they could create or build their robot in the classroom.

These tasks may be undertaken simultaneously or consecutively. To facilitate the second task, provide the students with a range of resources to spark ideas.

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### Part 3: Build and code prototype

In their groups, students create a representation of their garden and robot (automated system). Possible options for students to do this include:

- Creating a large-scale gridded floor plan of the garden and programming a robot to simulate the required maintenance
- Use *Scratch/Scratch Jr.* (with a grid overlay function) or a similar coding tool to simulate their garden and program a sprite to simulate their robot or automated system carrying out its functions
- Draw their garden on grid paper and modify an existing robot to carry out or simulate maintenance functions.

Students will need assistance to create a grid map.

Use this opportunity to teach students the difference between a grid reference system and a coordinate system.

In a grid reference system, the spaces between the grid lines are labelled alpha-numerically in order to identify cells in the grid. In contrast a coordinate system can identify individual points between the axes. This is because the axes are number lines meeting at zero.

Grid lines can be labelled at intervals using whole numbers, however, the use of fractions or decimals enables any point in those intervals to be identified. In this way, any point on one axis can be coordinated with any point on the second axis to locate individual points within the system. This represents the positive quadrant in the Cartesian Plane, the way longitude and latitude are measured, and the axes in line graphs or histograms.

These are important early learning experiences that will assist students to later understand the Cartesian Plane coordinates when introduced in Year 7 as well as many concepts students will encounter in Geography.

#### Part 4: Test and modify

Working in groups, students share their mini robot garden with the class and reflect on and evaluate the effectiveness of their design. They record their reflections in [Student activity sheet 3.1: Prototype troubleshooting](#).

Prompt students with questioning:



- What worked?
- What didn't work – why? How would you fix this?
- What would you do again? What would you not repeat? Why?

Students modify their designs to address any issues arising from the group reflections.

#### Part 5: Class reflection

Discuss the design process and how well the designs satisfied the design brief:

*Our design brief required...*

Prompt reflection with questions such as:



- What will people learn from your design?
- Has your solution been successful in addressing your design brief? Why or why not?

Students add new learning to their concept maps and reflections in their learning journals.

#### Resource sheets

[Student activity sheet 1.5: What is a robot?](#)

[Student activity sheet 3.1: Prototype troubleshooting](#)

[Student activity sheet 3.2: Design review](#)

[Design process guide](#)

[Drawing in the design process](#)

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**Digital resources**

How to explain algorithms to kids (Tynker, 2018)  
[www.tynker.com/blog/articles/ideas-and-tips/how-to-explain-algorithms-to-kids](http://www.tynker.com/blog/articles/ideas-and-tips/how-to-explain-algorithms-to-kids)

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How to use Hummingbird Robot Kits in Schools (Travis Lape, 2015)  
[youtu.be/37IKi9qchJI](https://youtu.be/37IKi9qchJI)

---

Animatronics (littleBits, 2018)  
[littlebits.com/challenges/animatronics](http://littlebits.com/challenges/animatronics)

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CS Unplugged  
[csunplugged.org/en/](http://csunplugged.org/en/)

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CS Fundamentals Unplugged  
[code.org/curriculum/unplugged](http://code.org/curriculum/unplugged)

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Unplugged Activity: Computational Thinking (ABC Education, 2014)  
[education.abc.net.au/home#!/media/1618109/](http://education.abc.net.au/home#!/media/1618109/)

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Garden Robot: Code + Robots (Made with Code, n.d)  
[www.madewithcode.com/projects/robots](http://www.madewithcode.com/projects/robots)

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*This robot keeps pests away and plants watered* (Captain Gizmo, 2017)  
[youtu.be/6KVoHxOPc50](https://youtu.be/6KVoHxOPc50)

---

*Wi-Fi Plant Watering System (with Particle Photon)* (River's Educational System, 2017)  
[youtu.be/\\_ysQVpQog3I](https://youtu.be/_ysQVpQog3I)

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*Make a Drip Irrigation System - Tinker Crate* (KiwiCo, 2017)  
[youtu.be/aUUcq-DGKPQ](https://youtu.be/aUUcq-DGKPQ)

---

*Arduino using a moisture system to water a pot plant* (Southern Bolt, 2016)  
[youtu.be/pCxeZkLhqSE](https://youtu.be/pCxeZkLhqSE)

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*Self-watering system for plants using waste plastic bottle* (ujjwal mitra, 2017)  
[youtu.be/OJJvghf1E7A](https://youtu.be/OJJvghf1E7A)

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The all-in-one plant spacing chart and planting guide (Garden In Minutes, 2015)  
[gardeninminutes.com/plant-spacing-chart-raised-bed-gardening](http://gardeninminutes.com/plant-spacing-chart-raised-bed-gardening)

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## Activity 4: Robotics today

### Activity focus



Students host an event that showcases their designs for an automated garden to a wider audience.

### Instructional procedures

This activity provides an opportunity for cross-curriculum assessment of literacy, listening and speaking. It also provides a rich opportunity for assessing the students' understanding of the science, mathematics and technology principles and processes.

Students will need support to prepare for the event. Some considerations include:

#### Venue

- Where will the event be held? Is there enough space?
- Will tables be required? How will they be arranged?

#### Invitations

- Who will be invited to attend?
- Which experts will you invite?
- How will you raise awareness of the event?

Example promotional materials have been included to give students some ideas. Refer to [Teacher resource sheet 4.1: Example flyer](#).

#### Digital infrastructure

- Is there access to wi-fi and power supply?
- Is technology available and charged?

#### Presentation skills

Students will need support and scaffolding to prepare for their presentation. To scaffold cooperative group work, each member of the group could have a role and responsibility. For example, one could be the content director, one the media director and a third the presentation director. See [Teacher resource sheet 1.1: Cooperative learning – Roles](#).

Students may need information about effective presentation skills such as voice clarity, projection, volume, pitch and tone.

---

Time should be taken to discuss how to give constructive feedback and how to receive feedback positively.

Following the event, students should be given time to make improvements to their work based on feedback. This will enable the completion of the design process.

Improvements could be made in their groups or as a private reflection in learning journals.

---

**Expected learning**

Students will be able to:

1. Work collaboratively to develop a presentation on their mini robot garden (Technologies).
  2. Evaluate the effectiveness of the design processes used and solutions, using an agreed set of criteria and personal reflection strategies (Technologies).
  3. Develop and communicate design ideas to an authentic audience (Technologies).
- 

**Equipment required****For the class:**

Media for presentations

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**For the students:**

Robot and garden prototypes

Digital photos

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**Preparation**

Ensure appropriate technology is available and students have the required skills.

Information on developing presentation skills and teacher resources for scaffolding student learning can be sourced from the TED-Ed talks in the *Digital resources* section.

Students need to set up their event space and ensure they have the materials required to deliver their presentation.

---

**Activity parts****Part 1: Preparing a presentation**

Students work in their groups to develop a presentation to inform the audience about their mini robot garden.

Students decide on the content of their presentation:

- Why is there a need for an automated garden?
  - What were we trying to achieve in our design?
  - What decisions did we make as we developed our design?
  - What types of movement will the robot make?
-

- 
- How will the robot keep the plants alive? Discuss your system in detail.
  - How did CAD help us develop our ideas?
  - How did our mathematics knowledge help us develop our ideas?

Students decide on the way in which they will present their information to an audience. Options include:

- Using models
  - *Keynote, Microsoft PowerPoint* presentations
  - *eBook, Comic Book*
  - Blog.
- 

## Part 2: Preparing for the event

### Set up

Students identify where they want to hold the event and how they plan to set up their space.

### Promotion

Students will need to develop promotional material in order to raise awareness of the event and promote participation from the wider school and local community. It should include:

- Event details (where, when, who, what etc.)
- Engaging typography and graphics.

Promotional material could be distributed around the school, in newsletters and on the school website. An example is provided [Teacher resource sheet 4.1: Example flyer](#).

Encourage students to be creative. Promotional materials can be designed using graphic design software such as *Canva, Microsoft Word* or *Pages*.

---

## Part 3: Event

Students make their presentations to the audience.

Following the presentations, participants are encouraged to walk through the event space and engage the students with questions about their mini robot gardens.

Example question prompts for participants can be found in [Teacher resource sheet 4.2: Question prompts](#).

---

## Part 4: Feedback

Set up a feedback book for the participants where they can write reflections and insights about their experience.

---

See [Teacher resource sheet 4.3: Peer and parent feedback](#). Alternatively, digital versions could be created using a tool such as Survey Monkey, Kahoot, Survey Gizmo or Microsoft Forms.

The teacher may use this opportunity to complete [Teacher resource sheet 4.4: Student evaluation](#).

### Part 5: Self-reflection and evaluation

Using the *Six Thinking Hat* structures, students individually reflect on their experience in their learning journals. Refer to [Student activity sheet 4.5: Self-evaluation](#). These will include the following types of reflection:

- Yellow: Positive
- Black: Negative
- Red: Feelings
- Green: Recommendations for next time.

Students complete [Student activity sheet 1.0: Journal checklist](#).

#### Additional learning experience

Students could apply their knowledge and collaborate to install an automated system into an existing school garden.

#### Resource sheets

[Student activity sheet 1.0: Journal checklist](#)  
[Teacher resource sheet 1.1: Cooperative learning – Roles](#)  
[Teacher resource sheet 4.1: Example flyer](#)  
[Teacher resource sheet 4.2: Question prompts](#)  
[Teacher resource sheet 4.3: Peer and parent feedback](#)  
[Teacher resource sheet 4.4: Student evaluation](#)  
[Teacher resource sheet 4.5: Self-evaluation](#)

#### Digital resources

TED-Ed talks  
[phys.org/news/2014-01-kids-pitch-world-changing-ideas.html](https://phys.org/news/2014-01-kids-pitch-world-changing-ideas.html)

## Appendix 1A: Links to the Western Australian Curriculum

The *Mini robot garden* module provides opportunities for developing students' knowledge and understandings in science, technologies and mathematics. The table below shows how this module aligns to the content of the Western Australian Curriculum and can be used by teachers for planning and monitoring.

MINI ROBOT GARDEN	ACTIVITY			
	1	2	3	4
Links to the Western Australian Curriculum				
<b>SCIENCE</b>				
SCIENCE UNDERSTANDING				
<b>Biological sciences:</b> Living things have life cycles (ACSSU072)	●			
<b>Biological sciences:</b> Living things depend on each other and the environment to survive (ACSSU073)		●		
SCIENCE INQUIRY SKILLS				
<b>Planning and conducting:</b> With guidance, plan and conduct scientific investigations to find answers to questions, considering the safe use of appropriate materials and equipment (ACSI065)		●		
<b>DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGIES</b>				
KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING				
<b>Food and fibre production:</b> Types of technologies used in food and fibre production or processing, including how they are used to help meet consumer needs (ACTDEK012)	●	●		
<b>DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES</b>				
KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING				
<b>Digital systems:</b> Digital systems and peripheral devices are used for different purposes and can store and transmit different types of data (ACTDIK007)	●	●	●	
<b>Representation of data:</b> Different types of data can be represented in different ways (ACTDIK008)		●	●	

**MINI ROBOT GARDEN**

Links to the Western Australian Curriculum

	ACTIVITY			
	1	2	3	4
<b>DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES</b>				
<b>PROCESSES AND PRODUCTION SKILLS</b>				
<b>Digital implementation:</b> Use simple visual programming environments that include a sequence of steps (algorithm) involving decisions made by the user (branching) (ACTDIP011)			•	
<b>Investigating and defining:</b> Define a sequence of steps to design a solution for a given task (WATPPS21)			•	
<b>Designing:</b> Develop and communicate design ideas and decisions using annotated drawings and appropriate technical terms (WATPPS23)			•	•
<b>Collaborating and managing:</b> Work independently, or collaboratively when required, to plan, create and communicate ideas and information for solutions (WATPPS26)			•	•
<b>Evaluating:</b> Use criteria to evaluate and justify simple design processes and solutions (WATPPS25)				•

**MINI ROBOT GARDEN**

Links to the Western Australian Curriculum

	ACTIVITY			
	1	2	3	4
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>				
<b>MEASUREMENT AND GEOMETRY</b>				
<b>Using units of measurement:</b> Use scaled instruments to measure and compare lengths, masses, capacities and temperatures (ACMMG084)		●		
<b>Shape:</b> Compare the areas of regular and irregular shapes by informal means (ACMMG087)			●	
<b>Location and transformation:</b> Use simple scales, legends and directions to interpret information contained in basic maps (ACMMG090)			●	
<b>STATISTICS AND PROBABILITY</b>				
<b>Data representation and interpretation:</b> Construct suitable data displays, with and without the use of digital technologies, from given or collected data. Include tables, column graphs and picture graphs where one picture can represent many data values (ACMSP096)		●		
<b>Data representation and interpretation:</b> Evaluate the effectiveness of different displays in illustrating data features including variability (ACMSP097)		●		

Further information about assessment and reporting in the Western Australian Curriculum can be found at: [k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/home](http://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/home).

## Appendix 1B: Mathematics proficiency strands

### Key ideas

In Mathematics, the key ideas are the proficiency strands of understanding, fluency, problem-solving and reasoning. The proficiency strands describe the actions in which students can engage when learning and using the content. While not all proficiency strands apply to every content description, they indicate the breadth of mathematical actions that teachers can emphasise.

### Understanding

Students build a robust knowledge of adaptable and transferable mathematical concepts. They make connections between related concepts and progressively apply the familiar to develop new ideas. They develop an understanding of the relationship between the 'why' and the 'how' of mathematics. Students build understanding when they connect related ideas, when they represent concepts in different ways, when they identify commonalities and differences between aspects of content, when they describe their thinking mathematically and when they interpret mathematical information.

### Fluency

Students develop skills in choosing appropriate procedures; carrying out procedures flexibly, accurately, efficiently and appropriately; and recalling factual knowledge and concepts readily. Students are fluent when they calculate answers efficiently, when they recognise robust ways of answering questions, when they choose appropriate methods and approximations, when they recall definitions and regularly use facts, and when they can manipulate expressions and equations to find solutions.

### Problem-solving

Students develop the ability to make choices, interpret, formulate, model and investigate problem situations, and communicate solutions effectively. Students formulate and solve problems when they use mathematics to represent unfamiliar or meaningful situations, when they design investigations and plan their approaches, when they apply their existing strategies to seek solutions, and when they verify that their answers are reasonable.

### Reasoning

Students develop an increasingly sophisticated capacity for logical thought and actions, such as analysing, proving, evaluating, explaining, inferring, justifying and generalising. Students are reasoning mathematically when they explain their thinking, when they deduce and justify strategies used and conclusions reached, when they adapt the known to the unknown, when they transfer learning from one context to another, when they prove that something is true or false, and when they compare and contrast related ideas and explain their choices.

Source: ACARA - [www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/mathematics/key-ideas/?searchTerm=key+ideas#dimension-content](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/mathematics/key-ideas/?searchTerm=key+ideas#dimension-content)

## Appendix 2: General capabilities continuums

The general capabilities continuums shown here are designed to enable teachers to understand the progression students should make with reference to each of the elements. There is no intention for them to be used for assessment.

### Information and communication technology (ICT) capability learning continuum

Sub-element	Typically by the end of Year 2	Typically by the end of Year 4	Typically by the end of Year 6
<b>Create with ICT</b> <b>Generate ideas, plans and processes</b>	use ICT to prepare simple plans to find solutions or answers to questions	use ICT to generate ideas and plan solutions	use ICT effectively to record ideas, represent thinking and plan solutions
<b>Create with ICT</b> <b>Generate solutions to challenges and learning area tasks</b>	experiment with ICT as a creative tool to generate simple solutions, modifications or data representations for particular audiences or purposes	create and modify simple digital solutions, creative outputs or data representation/ transformation for particular purposes	independently or collaboratively create and modify digital solutions, creative outputs or data representation/ transformation for particular audiences and purposes
<b>Communicating with ICT</b> <b>Collaborate, share and exchange</b>	use purposefully selected ICT tools safely to share and exchange information with appropriate local audiences	use appropriate ICT tools safely to share and exchange information with appropriate known audiences	select and use appropriate ICT tools safely to share and exchange information and to safely collaborate with others

## Critical and creative thinking learning continuum

Sub-element	Typically by the end of Year 2	Typically by the end of Year 4	Typically by the end of Year 6
<b>Inquiring – identifying, exploring and organising information and ideas</b>  <b>Organise and process information</b>	organise information based on similar or relevant ideas from several sources	collect, compare and categorise facts and opinions found in a widening range of sources	analyse, condense and combine relevant information from multiple sources
<b>Generating ideas, possibilities and actions</b>  <b>Imagine possibilities and connect ideas</b>	build on what they know to create ideas and possibilities in ways that are new to them	expand on known ideas to create new and imaginative combinations	combine ideas in a variety of ways and from a range of sources to create new possibilities
<b>Generating ideas, possibilities and actions</b>  <b>Seek solutions and put ideas into action</b>	investigate options and predict possible outcomes when putting ideas into action	experiment with a range of options when seeking solutions and putting ideas into action	assess and test options to identify the most effective solution and to put ideas into action
<b>Reflecting on thinking and processes</b>  <b>Transfer knowledge into new contexts</b>	use information from a previous experience to inform a new idea	transfer and apply information in one setting to enrich another	apply knowledge gained from one context to another unrelated context and identify new meaning

## Personal and social capability learning continuum

Sub-element	Typically by the end of Year 2	Typically by the end of Year 4	Typically by the end of Year 6
<b>Social management</b> <b>Work collaboratively</b>	identify cooperative behaviours in a range of group activities	describe characteristics of cooperative behaviour and identify evidence of these in group activities	contribute to groups and teams, suggesting improvements in methods used for group investigations and projects
<b>Social management</b> <b>Negotiate and resolve conflict</b>	practise solving simple interpersonal problems, recognising there are many ways to solve conflict	identify a range of conflict resolution strategies to negotiate positive outcomes to problems	identify causes and effects of conflict, and practise different strategies to diffuse or resolve conflict situations
<b>Social management</b> <b>Develop leadership skills</b>	discuss ways in which they can take responsibility for their own actions	discuss the concept of leadership and identify situations where it is appropriate to adopt this role	initiate or help to organise group activities that address a common need

Further information about general capabilities is available at:

[k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/home/p-10-curriculum/general-capabilities-over/general-capabilities-overview/general-capabilities-in-the-australian-curriculum](http://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/home/p-10-curriculum/general-capabilities-over/general-capabilities-overview/general-capabilities-in-the-australian-curriculum)

## Appendix 3: Glossary

Subject-specific vocabulary	
Robot	A programmable machine capable of carrying out a complex series of actions autonomously.
Automation	The use or introduction of automatic equipment in a manufacturing or other process or facility.
Garden	A piece of ground adjoining a house in which grass, flowers, and shrubs may be grown.
Gantry	A bridge-like overhead structure with a platform supporting equipment such as a crane, signals or cameras.
Servo	A variable control motor which drives a moving part of a mechanism.
Sensor	A device which detects or measures a physical property and records, indicates or otherwise responds to it.
Nutrient	A substance that provides nourishment essential for the maintenance of life and for growth.
Solar	Relating to or denoting energy derived from the sun.
Motor	A machine that supplies the driving force for a device with moving parts.
Program	A series of coded software instructions to control the operation of a computer or other machine.
3D printer	A machine allowing the creation of a physical object from a three-dimensional digital model, typically by laying down many thin layers of a material in succession.

## Appendix 4: Materials list

The following materials are required to complete this module.

### Construction materials

Cardboard	Tape	Scissors
Rulers / Measuring tape	Paint	Glue
Butcher paper	Fishing line	Modelling clay
Cereal boxes	Toothpicks	Pipe-cleaners
Straws	String	Elastic bands
Construction paper	Wooden craft sticks	Cellophane
Balsa wood	Utility knife	Hot glue gun

### Software

<i>Popplet</i>	<i>Do Ink – Green Screen</i>	<i>Adobe Spark</i>
<i>iMovie</i>	<i>Garage Band</i>	<i>Chatterpix Kids</i>
<i>SketchUp</i>	<i>Tinkercad</i>	<i>Minecraft</i>

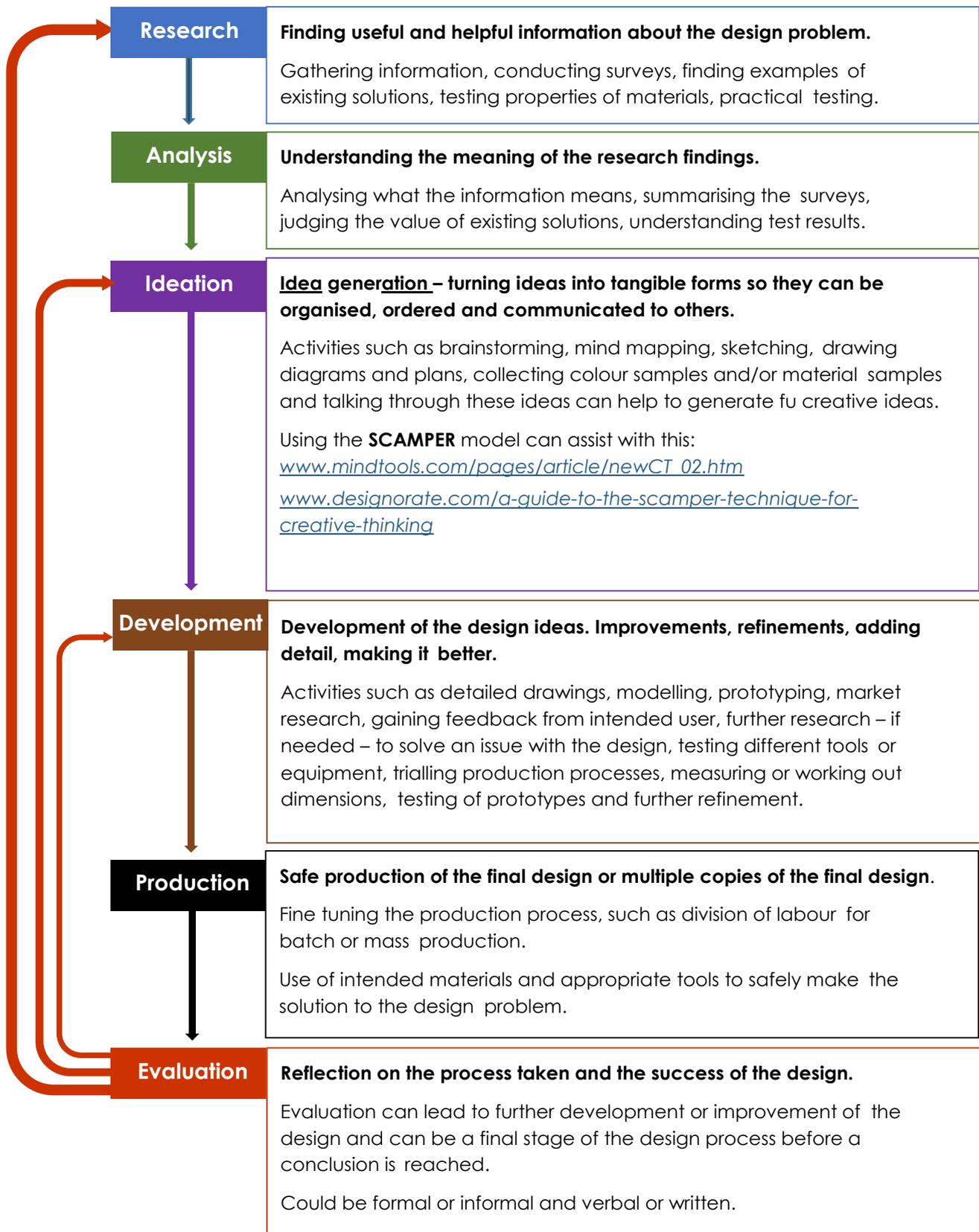
### Technology

<i>Little Bits</i>	<i>Arduino Hummingbird</i>	<i>Makey Makey</i>
<i>Green Screen</i>	<i>Micro:bit</i>	<i>3D Printer</i>
<i>Tablets/Computers</i>	<i>Digital camera</i>	<i>Interactive whiteboard</i>

### Items to make a simple motor

Battery	Insulated wire	Paper clips
Small magnet	Servo	

## Appendix 5: Design process guide



## Appendix 5B: Drawing in the design process

Incorporating the design process into the STEM modules will often result in the need for students to draw plans of their designs. This can be done at a simple level using hand-drawn sketches or at a more technical level using computer-aided design (CAD).

By developing skills using industry-standard software, students may be well-placed to explore future career pathways.

There are several CAD software options; two free examples are detailed below. Autodesk is a third package that is also free for educational use.



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### Tinkercad

- Format: Web-based app requiring internet access via a browser
- Purpose: A simple, online 3D design and 3D printing app
- Home: [www.tinkercad.com](http://www.tinkercad.com)
- Blog: [blog.tinkercad.com](http://blog.tinkercad.com)
- Tutorials: [www.tinkercad.com/learn](http://www.tinkercad.com/learn)
- Feature: Connects to 3D printing and laser cutting.

### SketchUp

- Format: Can be downloaded and installed on devices, or used in a browser
- Purpose: Enables students to draw in 3D
- Home: [www.sketchup.com](http://www.sketchup.com) 'Products' 'SketchUp'
- Help centre: [help.sketchup.com/en](http://help.sketchup.com/en)
- Blog: [blog.sketchup.com](http://blog.sketchup.com)
- Tutorials: [www.youtube.com/user/SketchUpVideo](http://www.youtube.com/user/SketchUpVideo). From beginner tool tips to intermediate and advanced modelling techniques, the video tutorials help to build SketchUp skills.

## Appendix 6: Reflective journal

When students reflect on learning and analyse their own ideas and feelings, they self-evaluate, thereby improving their metacognitive skills. When students self-monitor or reflect, the most powerful learning happens.

Journaling may take the form of a written or digital journal, a portfolio or a digital portfolio. Early childhood classrooms may use a class reflective floor book with pictures of the learning experience and scribed conversations.



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Teachers can model the journaling process by thinking aloud and showing students how they can express learning and thoughts in a variety of ways including diagrams, pictures and writing.

Journals are a useful tool that gives teachers additional insight into how students value their own learning and progress, as well as demonstrating their individual achievements.

The following links provide background information and useful apps for journaling.

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Kidblog – digital portfolios and blogging  
[kidblog.org/home](http://kidblog.org/home)

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Edmodo – for consolidating and storing class notes and learning materials  
[www.edmodo.com](http://www.edmodo.com)

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Explain Everything™ – a screen casting, video and presentation tool all in one  
[explaineverything.com](http://explaineverything.com)

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Popplet – allows you to jot down your ideas and then sort them visually  
[popplet.com](http://popplet.com)

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Seesaw – for capturing work completed by students in class, using a device's camera function  
[web.seesaw.me](http://web.seesaw.me)

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Connect – the Department of Education's integrated, online environment  
[connect.det.wa.edu.au](http://connect.det.wa.edu.au)

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Evernote (a digital portfolio app)  
[evernote.com](http://evernote.com)

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*Digital portfolios for students* (Cool tools for school)  
[cooltoolsforschool.wordpress.com/digital-student-portfolios](http://cooltoolsforschool.wordpress.com/digital-student-portfolios)

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## Appendix 7: Student activity sheet 1.0: Journal checklist

As an ongoing part of this module, you have been keeping a journal of your work.

Before submitting your journal to your teacher please ensure you have included the following information.

- Tick each box once complete and included.
- Write N/A for items that were not required in this module.



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Your name and group member's names or photographs	
An explanation of the problem you are solving	
Your notes from Activity 1	
Your notes from Activity 2	
Your notes from Activity 3	
Your notes from Activity 4	
<i>Student activity sheet 1.5: What is a robot?</i>	
<i>Student activity sheet 1.7: Primary industry robots (Retrieval chart)</i>	
<i>Student activity sheet 2.1: Parts of a 3D printer</i>	
<i>Student activity sheet 2.2: Venn diagram</i>	
<i>Student activity sheet 2.5: Mind map</i>	
<i>Student activity sheet 2.6: Plants investigation</i>	
<i>Student activity sheet 2.7: Storyboarding</i>	
<i>Student activity sheet 3.1: Prototype troubleshooting</i>	
<i>Student activity sheet 3.2: Design review</i>	
<i>Student activity sheet 4.5: Self-evaluation</i>	
<i>Student activity sheet 1.0: Journal checklist</i>	

## Appendix 8: Teacher resource sheet 1.1: Cooperative learning – Roles

Cooperative learning frameworks create opportunities for groups of students to work together, generally to a single purpose.

As well as having the potential to increase learning for all students involved, using these frameworks can help students develop personal and social capability.

When students are working in groups, positive interdependence can be fostered by assigning roles to group members.



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These roles could include:

- Working roles such as Reader, Writer, Summariser, Time-keeper
- Social roles such as Encourager, Observer, Noise monitor, Energiser.

Teachers using the *Primary Connections* roles of Director, Manager and Speaker for their science teaching may find it effective to also use these roles for STEM learning.

Further to this, specific roles can be delineated for specific activities that the group is completing.

It can help students if some background to the purpose of group roles is made clear to them before they start, but at no time should the roles get in the way of the learning. Teachers should decide when or where roles are appropriate to given tasks.



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## Appendix 9: Teacher resource sheet 1.2: Cooperative learning – Jigsaw

Cooperative learning frameworks create opportunities for groups of students to work together, generally for a single purpose.

As well as having the potential to increase learning for all students involved, using these frameworks can help students develop personal and social capability.

The jigsaw strategy typically has each member of the group becoming an 'expert' on one or two aspects of a topic or question being investigated. Students start in their cooperative groups, then break away to form 'expert' groups to investigate and learn about a specific aspect of a topic. After developing a sound level of understanding, the students return to their cooperative groups and teach each other what they have learnt.

Within each expert group, issues such as how to teach the information to their group members are considered.

<b>Step 1</b>	<b>Cooperative groups</b> (of four students)	<b>1 2 3 4</b>	<b>1 2 3 4</b>
<b>Step 2</b>	<b>Expert groups</b> (size equal to the number of groups)	<b>1 1</b>	<b>2 2 3 3 4 4</b>
<b>Step 3</b>	<b>Cooperative groups</b> (of four students)	<b>1 2 3 4</b>	<b>1 2 3 4</b>

## Appendix 10: Teacher resource sheet 1.3: Cooperative learning – Placemat

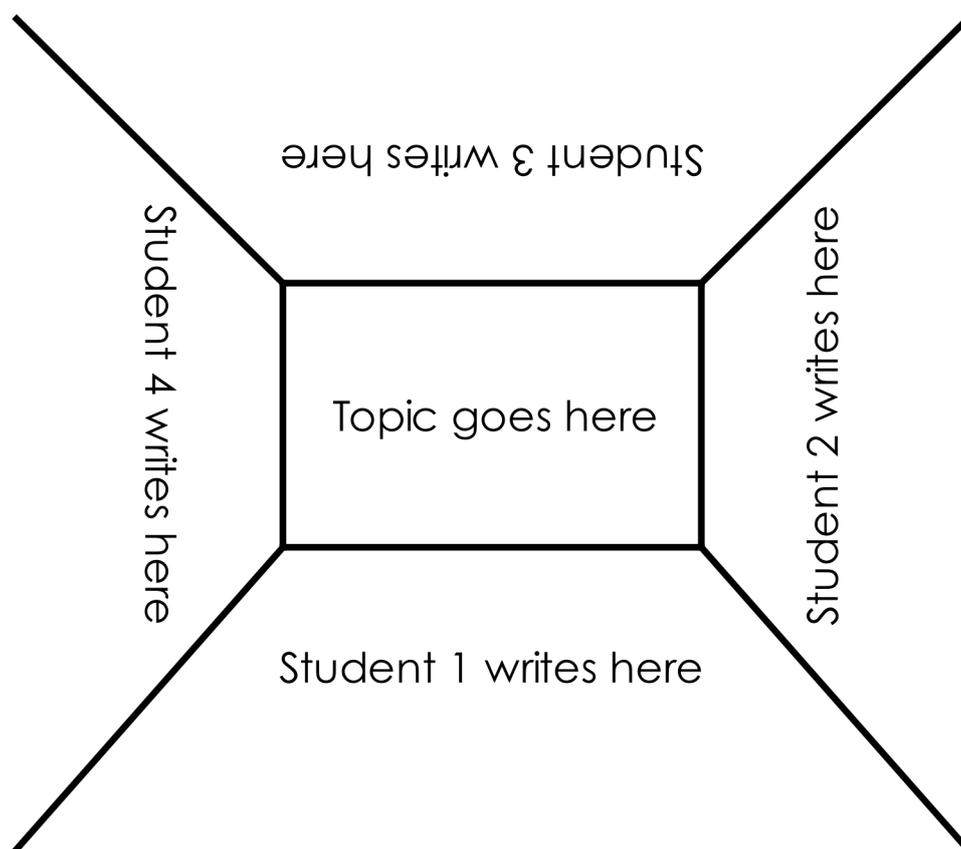
Cooperative learning frameworks create opportunities for groups of students to work together, generally for a single purpose.

As well as having the potential to increase learning for all students involved, using these frameworks can help students develop personal and social capability.

The placemat strategy involves students working collaboratively to record prior knowledge about a common topic and brainstorm ideas. It also allows teachers to readily see the contribution of each student. The diagram below shows a typical placemat template.



*istockphoto.com*



*STEM Consortium*

## Appendix 11: Teacher resource sheet 1.4: Cooperative learning – Think, Pair, Share

Cooperative learning frameworks create opportunities for groups of students to work together, generally to a single purpose.

As well as having the potential to increase learning for all students involved, using these frameworks can help students develop personal and social capability.

In the 'think' stage, each student thinks silently about a question asked by the teacher.

In the 'pair' stage, students discuss their thoughts and answers to the question in pairs.

In the 'share' stage, the students share their answer, their partner's answer or what they decided together. This sharing may be with other pairs or with the whole class. It is important also to let students 'pass'. This is a key element of making the strategy safe for students.

Think-pair-share increases student participation and provides an environment for higher levels of thinking and questioning.



*istockphoto.com*



*istockphoto.com*

## Appendix 12: Student activity sheet 1.5: What is a robot?

What is a robot?

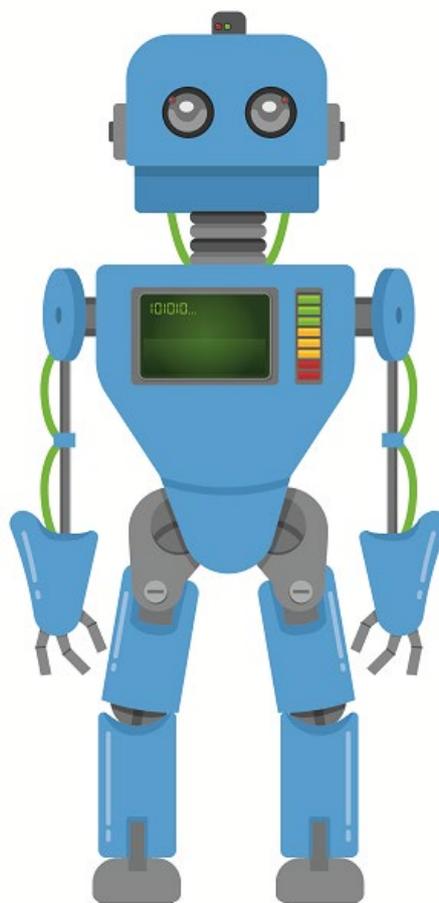
A robot is...

Components of a robot:

Sensors

Motors

Program



STEM Consortium

## Answers

### What is a robot?

A robot is...

Components of a robot

Sensors

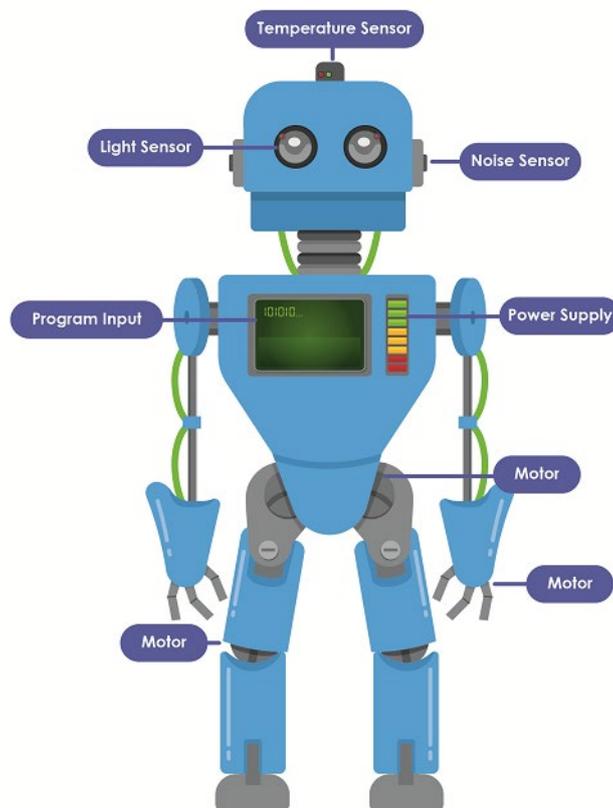
Light, noise, temperature,  
pressure, colour

Motors

Actuators, servos

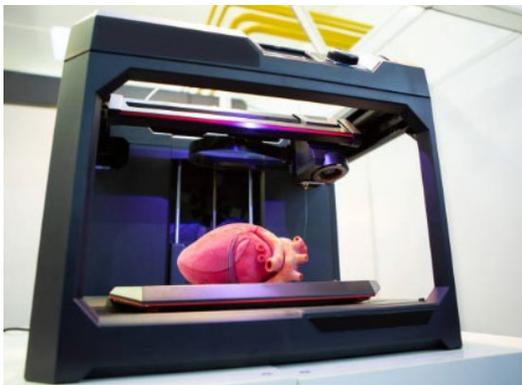
Power Supply

Solar, battery, electricity,  
wind



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## Appendix 13: Teacher resource sheet 1.6: Picture stimulus – Robots in society



gettyimages.com.au

**3D printing**



gettyimages.com.au

**Space exploration**



pixabay.com

**Horticulture**



gettyimages.com.au

**Manufacturing**



gettyimages.com.au

**Mining**



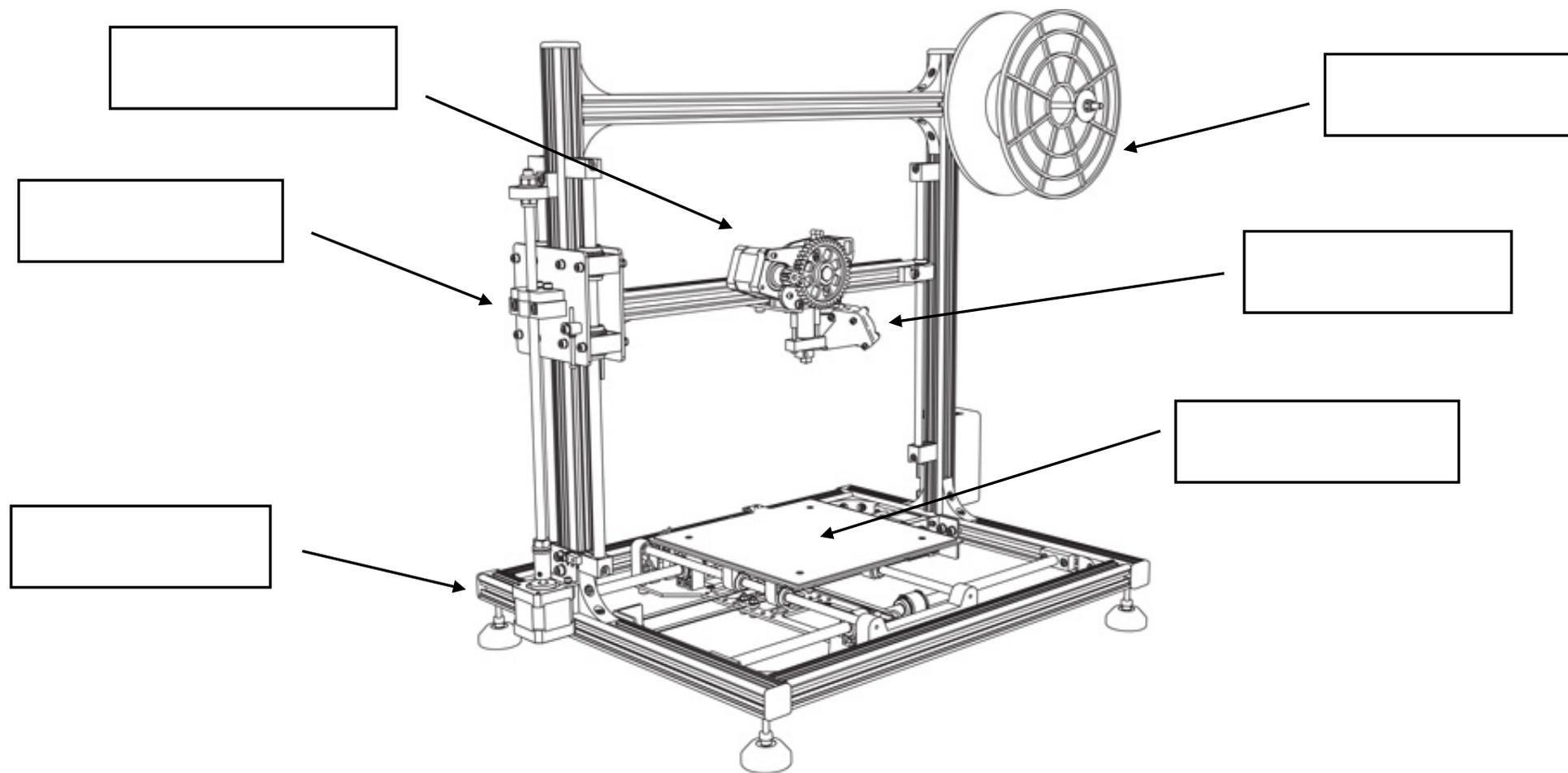
gettyimages.com.au

**Transportation**

**Appendix 14: Student activity sheet 1.7: Primary industry robots (Retrieval chart)**

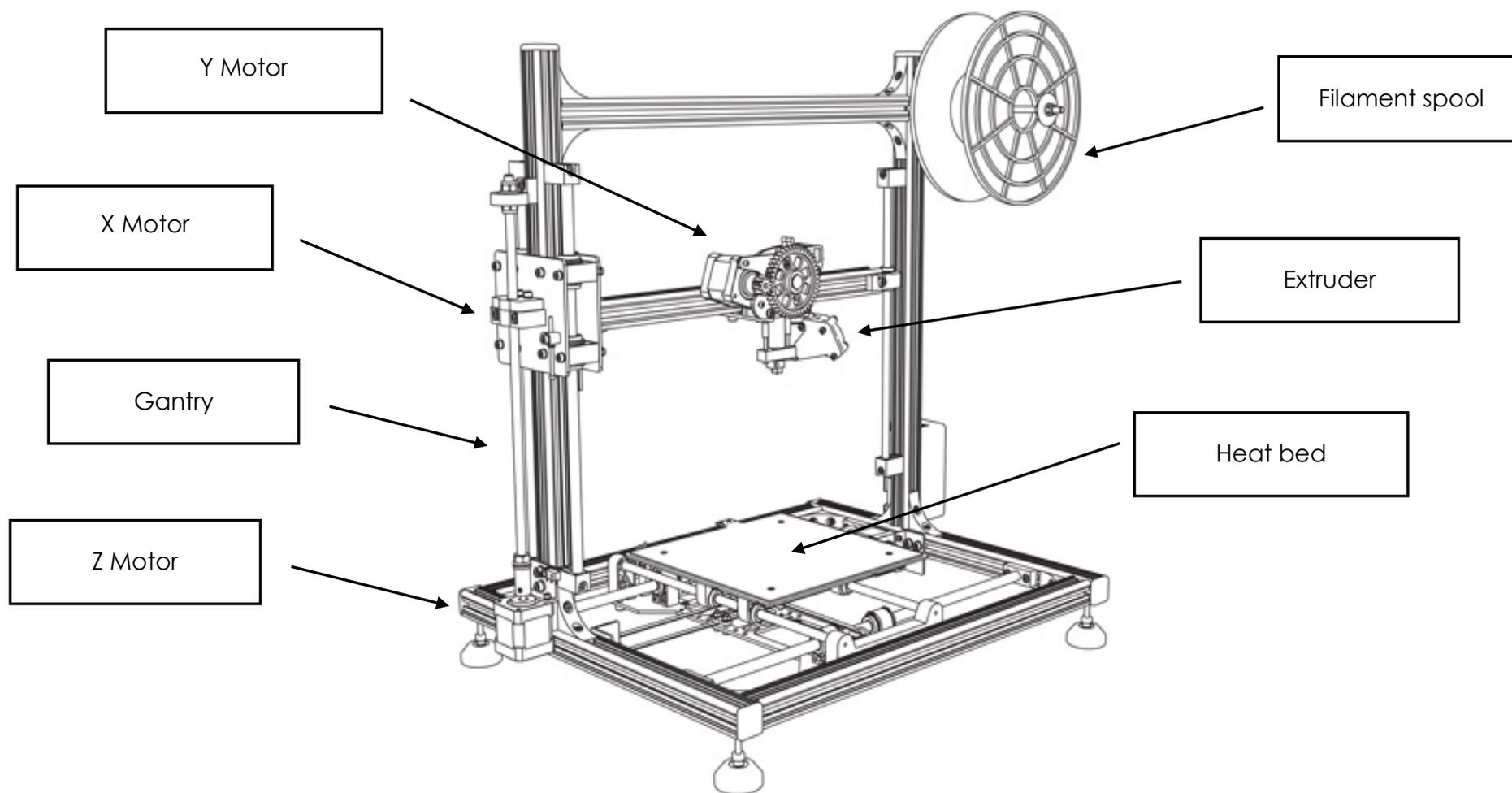
Primary industry robots			
Name	Purpose	How does it work?	Benefits

### Appendix 15: Student activity sheet 2.1: Parts of a 3D printer



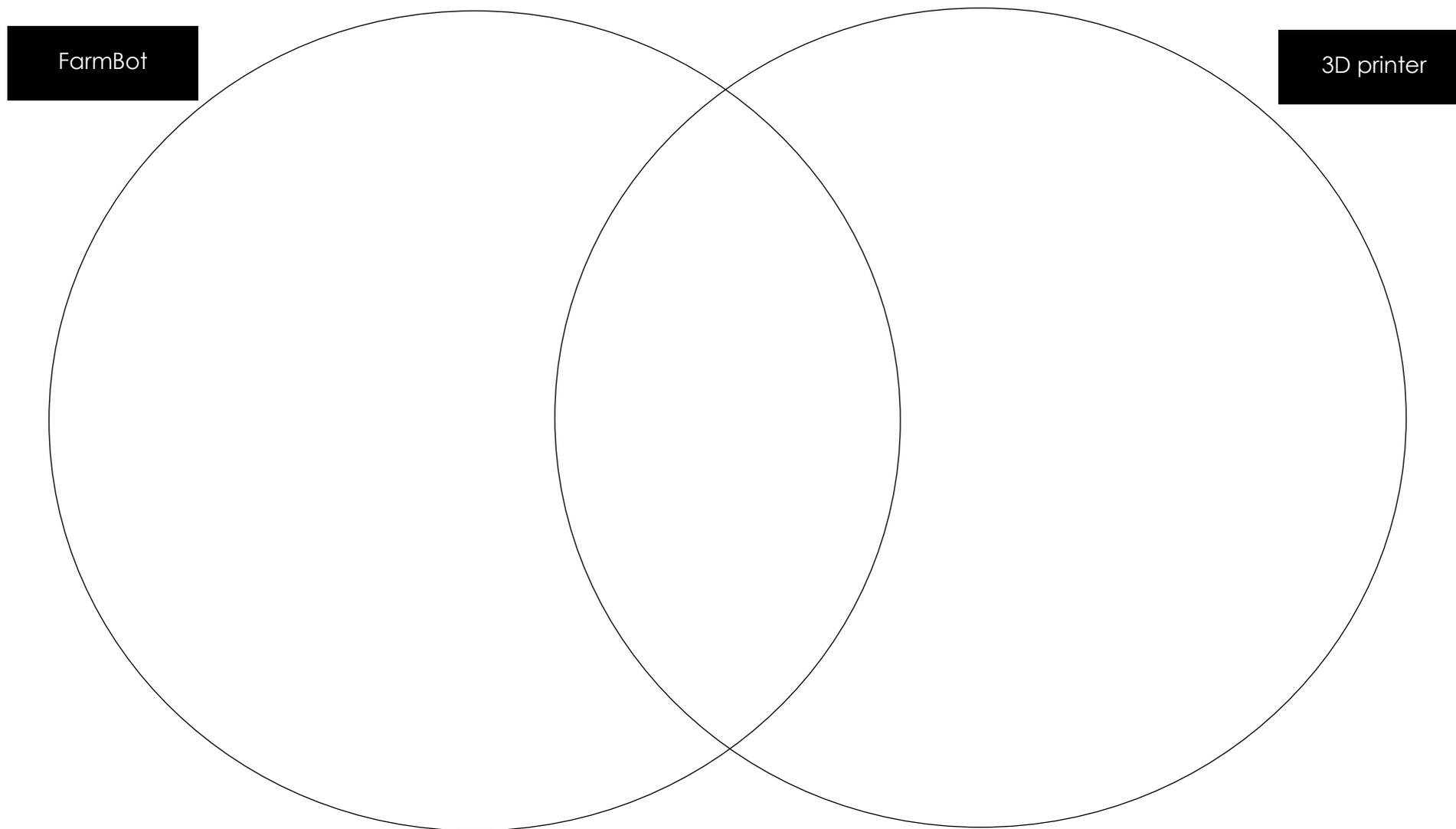
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## Answers



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## Appendix 16: Student activity sheet 2.2: Venn diagram



## Appendix 17: Teacher resource sheet 2.3: Picture stimulus – Growing vegetables



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## Appendix 18: Student activity sheet 2.4: I see, I think, I wonder

What do you see when you look at this image?



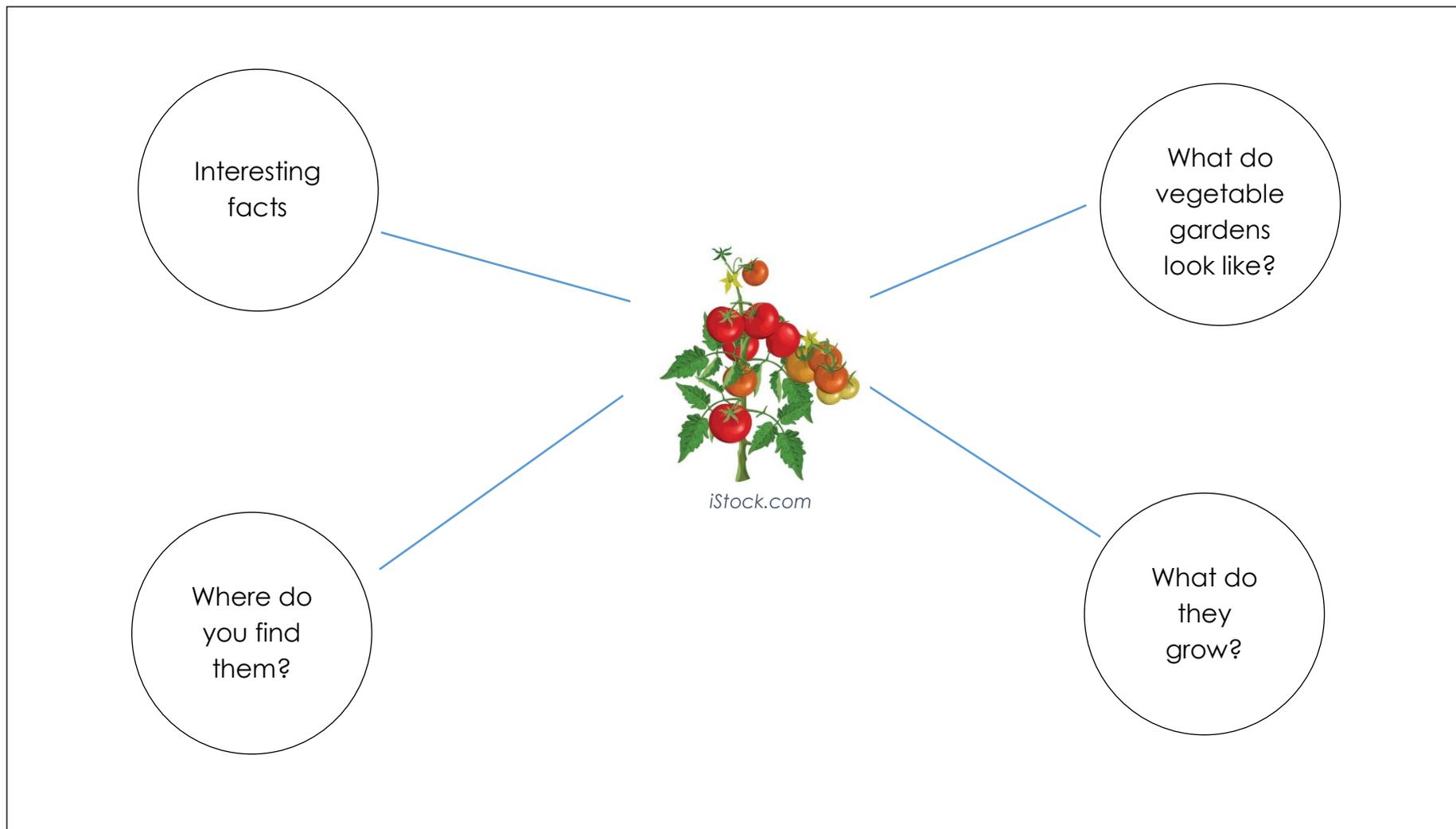
What are you thinking about as you look at this image?



What are your wonderings (questions)?



## Appendix 19: Student activity sheet 2.5: Mind map



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## Appendix 20: Student activity sheet 2.6: Plants investigation

### Question and prediction

What is the question you will investigate?

What is your prediction?

Why do you think this will happen?

### Planning for the investigation

What will you change? (eg with soil and without soil)

What will you observe and measure?

What will you keep the same to make it a fair test?

Draw a diagram to show how you will set up your investigation.

## Conducting the investigation

How will you look after the plants during the investigation?

How will you record your data? Think about how this will look and sketch it below. Explain to your teacher why you have decided to record your data this way.

Do your plants look healthy? Why/ why not? Include a picture or a description of your plants.

## Analysing your results

Which plants had the most growth?

Which plants had the least growth?

How much did the plants grow between the first and last days?

What does the data tell us about the growth of the plants?

What else did you notice about the growth of the plants?

Think about what you know about graphing. Is there a way you could display the data from your table to help you better understand it? Why?

## Interpreting results and making a conclusion

Was your prediction supported by your results? How do you know?

What have you learnt from your investigation about the needs of plants?

What is your conclusion/answer to your question? How do you know this to be true?

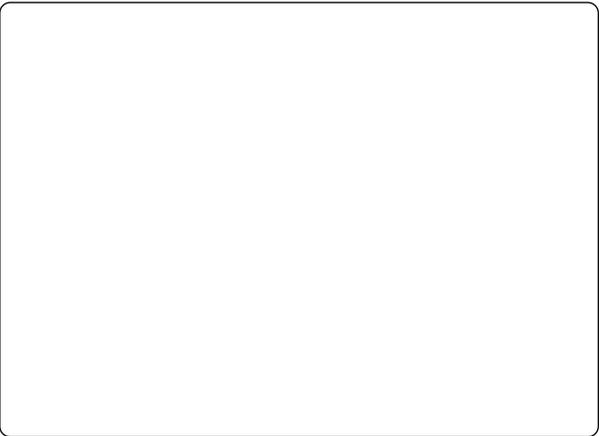
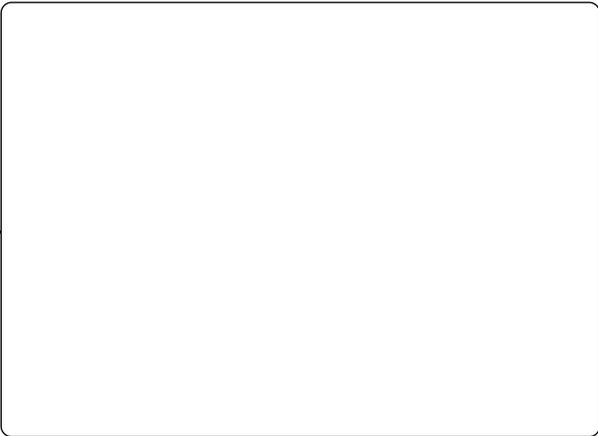
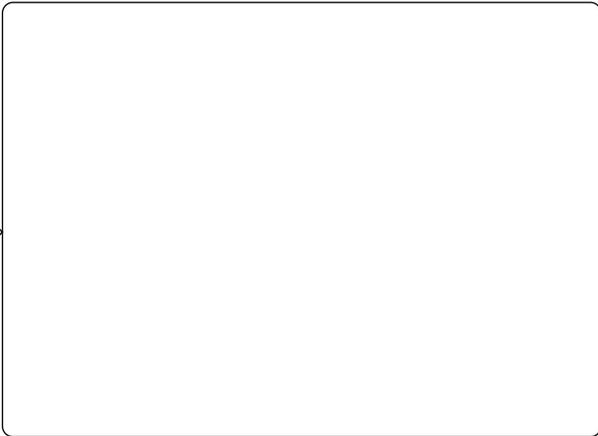
### **Evaluating your investigation**

Did the plan for your investigation work out well? Why was that?

How could your plan be improved?

What was the most important thing you learnt about conducting science investigations?

## Appendix 21: Student activity sheet 2.7: Storyboarding

<p>Scene 1</p>  <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>Scene 2</p>  <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>Scene 3</p>  <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Props / Backgrounds</p>		<p>Music / FX</p>

## Appendix 22: Student activity sheet 3.1: Prototype troubleshooting

<b>Problem</b>	<b>Reason for the problem</b>	<b>Possible changes to your design to solve the problem</b>

## Appendix 23: Student activity sheet 3.2: Design review

**Things I would keep the same**

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**Things I would change**

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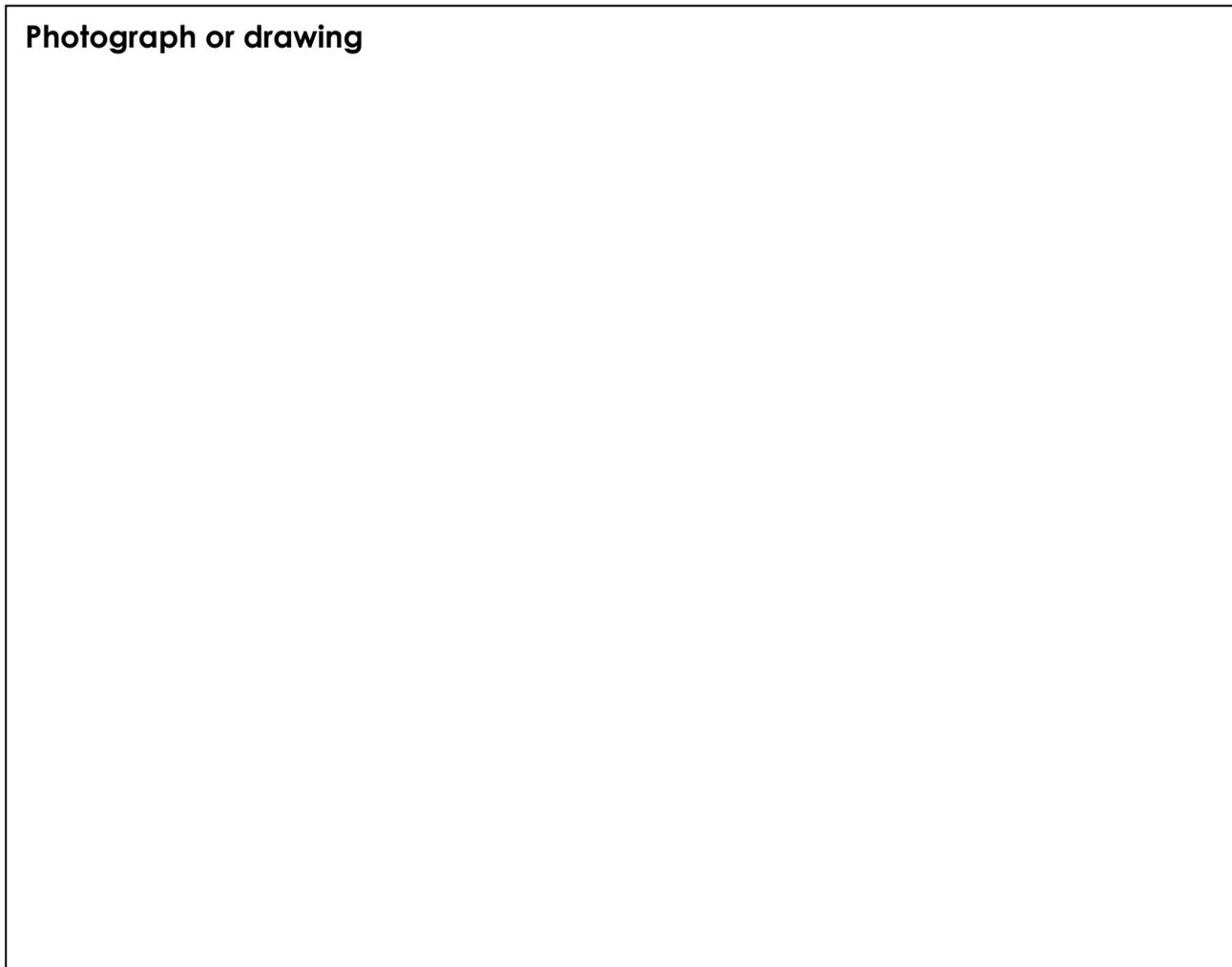
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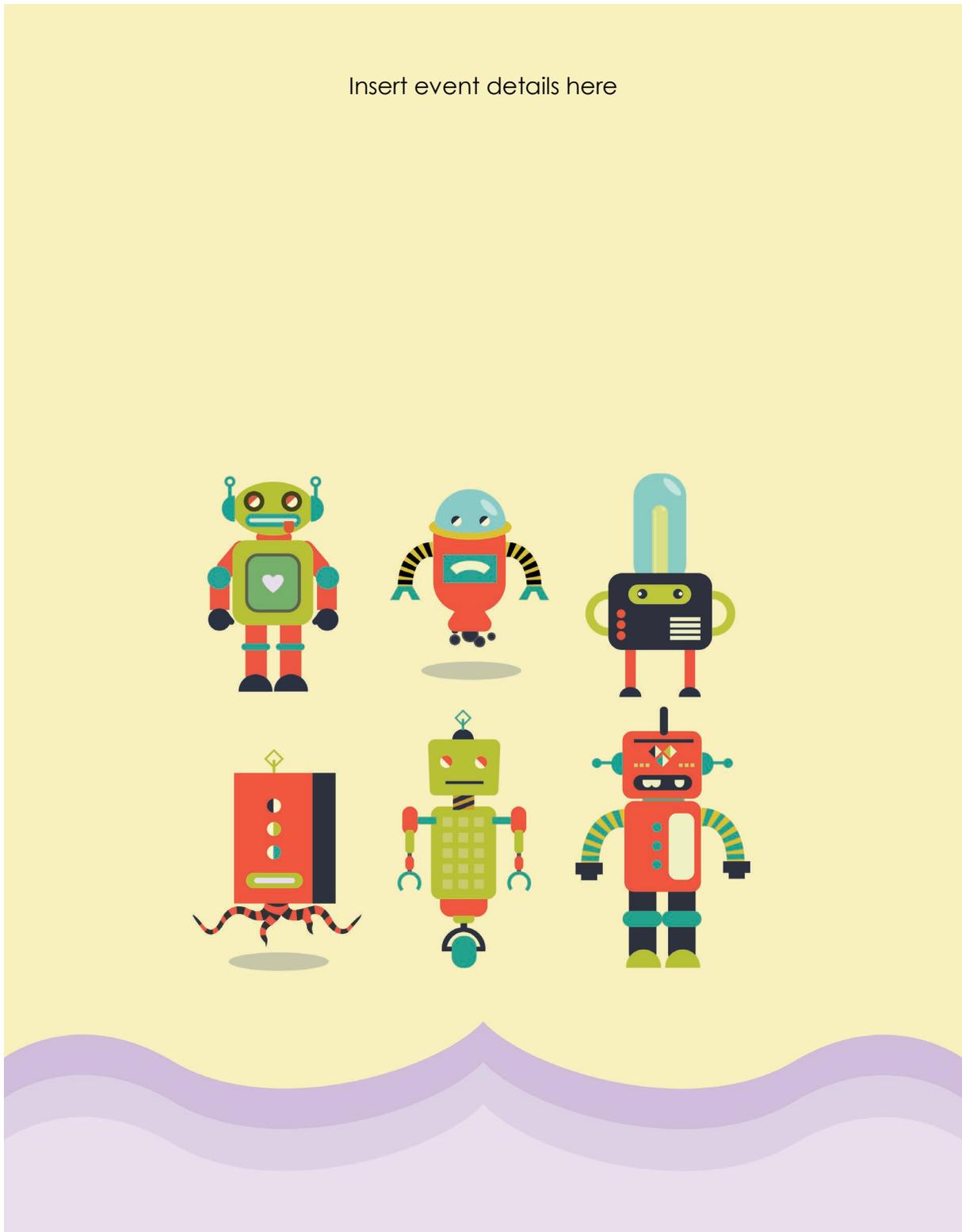
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**Photograph or drawing**



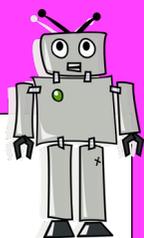
## Appendix 24: Teacher resource sheet 4.1: Example flyer



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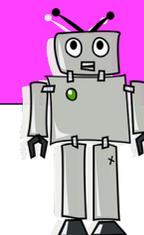
## Appendix 25: Teacher resource sheet 4.2: Question prompts

### Robotics Today



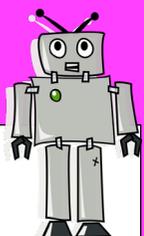
- What is the purpose of your robot?
- How does it work?
- What parts make up the system?
- How is it powered?
- How do you program the robot?

### Robotics Today



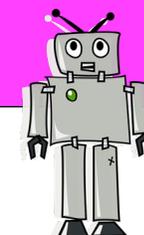
- What is the purpose of your robot?
- How does it work?
- What parts make up the system?
- How is it powered?
- How do you program the robot?

### Robotics Today



- What is the purpose of your robot?
- How does it work?
- What parts make up the system?
- How is it powered?
- How do you program the robot?

### Robotics Today



- What is the purpose of your robot?
- How does it work?
- What parts make up the system?
- How is it powered?
- How do you program the robot?

## Appendix 26: Teacher resource sheet 4.3: Peer or parent feedback

Please provide some feedback about the mini robot garden you engaged with.

Did you have fun? What did you learn? What will you do with this new information?

Feedback 1	Feedback 2	Feedback 3
Feedback 4	Feedback 4	Feedback 6
Feedback 7	Feedback 8	Feedback 9

## Appendix 27: Teacher resource sheet 4.4: Student evaluation

Key:  1 Needs attention/ sometimes 2 Very good/ consistently 3 Excellent/ independently/ consistently	Student name												
Remains focused on tasks presented													
Completes set tasks to best of their ability													
Manages time effectively													
Cooperates effectively within the group													
Contributes to group discussions													
Shows respect and consideration for others													
Uses appropriate conflict resolution skills													
Actively seeks and uses feedback													

## Appendix 28: Student activity sheet 4.5: Self-evaluation

Mini robot garden reflection	
Photograph or drawing	
What did you make?	How do you feel about your robotic solution?
 <small>pixabay.com</small>	 <small>pixabay.com</small>
What do you like about your robotic solution?	What could you have done better?
 <small>pixabay.com</small>	 <small>pixabay.com</small>
What would you do differently?	
 <small>pixabay.com</small>	