

Year Groups

Year 5

Mechanical systems - Cams

Health and safety

Pupils should be taught to work safely, using tools, equipment, materials, components and techniques appropriate to the task.

Key learning in design and technology

Prior learning

- Experience of axles, axle holders and wheels that are fixed or free moving.
- Basic understanding of different types of movement.
- Experience of cutting and joining techniques with a range of materials including card, plastic and wood.
- An understanding of how to strengthen and stiffen structures.

Designing

- Generate innovative ideas by carrying out research using surveys, interviews, questionnaires and web-based resources.
- Develop a simple design specification to guide their thinking.
- Develop and communicate ideas through discussion, annotated drawings, exploded drawings and drawings from different views.

Making

- Produce detailed lists of tools, equipment and materials. Formulate step-by-step plans and, if appropriate, allocate tasks within a team.
- Select from and use a range of tools and equipment to make products that that are accurately assembled and well finished. Work within the constraints of time, resources and cost.

Evaluating

- Compare the final product to the original design specification.
- Test products with the intended user, where safe and practical, and critically evaluate the quality of the design, manufacture, functionality and fitness for purpose.
- Consider the views of others to improve their work.
- Investigate famous manufacturing and engineering companies relevant to the project.

Technical knowledge and understanding

- Understand that mechanical systems have an input, process and an output.
- Understand how cams can be used to produce different types of movement and change the direction of movement. Know and use technical vocabulary relevant to the project.

Project title

Design, make and evaluate a _____ (product) for _____ (user) for _____ (purpose).

To be completed by the teacher if topic is different from what is pre-planned

What could children design, make and evaluate?

a shop display with moving parts e.g. lifting or rotating images of items for sale
a vehicle incorporating cam-driven components
a toy with oscillating, rotating or reciprocating movement
other – specify

Provided resources

photos of cams, models or toys with different cam mechanisms
MDF, card or wooden wheels, wooden cams, dowel, PVA glue,
junior hacksaws, G-clamps, bench hooks, hand drill, pre-punched cam boxes

Other resources

finishing media, card, masking tape, double-sided tape, card boxes,

Investigative and Evaluative Activities (IEAs)

- Discuss with the children different types of movement: rotary, oscillating and reciprocating. Make simple models of different types of cams or have toys in which the cam mechanisms can be seen. Use videos, photographs and computer animations of products that cannot be explored through first-hand experience.
- Encourage children to look for different types of movement in the home and in school.
- Use observational drawings and questions to develop understanding of the products in the handling collection and those that children have researched e.g. *How innovative is the product? What design decisions have been made? What type of movement can be seen? What types of mechanical components are used and where are they positioned? What are the input movement, process and output movement of the system? How well does the product work? Why have the materials and components been chosen? How well has it been designed? How well has it been made?*
- Children could research and, if possible, visit engineering and manufacturing companies that are relevant to the product they are designing and making e.g. car engine manufacturers

Focused Tasks (FTs)

- Give children pre-cut cams made from MDF or wooden wheels to mount on a piece of board and observe their movement with a follower.
- Demonstrate how to use a hand drill safely to make an off-centre cam and position it accurately in a housing. Ensure children secure the wheel with a G-clamp and use a piece of scrap wood under the wheel to avoid drilling through the bench hook or table. Stress the importance of measuring accurately and checking before cutting any holes or gluing. It is important to line up the cam and follower otherwise the mechanism may not work smoothly. *How high will the cam lift the follower?*
- Develop measuring, marking, cutting, shaping and joining skills using junior hacksaws, G-clamps, bench hooks, square section wood, card triangles and hand drills to make cam mechanisms and construct wooden frames or card housings, as appropriate. Demonstrate the accurate and safe use of tools and equipment.

Design, Make and Evaluate Assignment (DMEA)

- Develop an authentic and meaningful design brief with the children.
- Children generate innovative ideas by carrying out research including surveys, interviews and questionnaires and develop a design specification for their product, carefully considering the purpose and intended user for their product.
- Communicate ideas through detailed, annotated sketches from different views and/or exploded diagrams. The drawings should indicate the design decisions made, including the location of the components, how they work as a system and the appearance and finishing techniques for the product.
- Produce detailed step-by-step plans and lists of tools, equipment and materials needed. If appropriate, allocate tasks within a team.
- Make high quality products, applying knowledge, understanding and skills from IEAs and FTs. Children should use a range of decorative finishing techniques to ensure a well finished final product that matches the intended user and purpose.
- Evaluate throughout and the final product in use, comparing it to the original design specification. Critically evaluate the quality of the design, the manufacture, functionality, innovation shown and fitness for the intended user and purpose.

Learning Progression