MODULE TOPIC: Engineering Design Method Challenges

OBJECTIVE(S): Students will be able to:
- Create a small working device powered by the potential energy in elastics by applying the engineering design method.
- Document their work in an engineering notebook.

STANDARD(S) & INDICATOR(S):
NGSS:
HS-PS3-3. Design, build, and refine a device that works within given constraints to convert one form of energy into another form of energy.
MS-ETS1-1. Define the criteria and constraints of a design problem with sufficient precision to ensure a successful solution, taking into account relevant scientific principles and potential impacts on people and the natural environment that may limit possible solutions.

MATERIALS:
- engineering notebooks,
- instructions
- ziploc bag containing, 2 paper clips, 2 plastic straws, 2 popsicle sticks, 1 plastic cup, 2 standard size elastics, one small 6 inch propeller with a hook mount for the elastics. Tape for fastening.

LIST OF HANDOUTS (attach original copies of each handout - teacher & student edition)
1 handout with student instructions - teacher notes include grading rubric

CLASSROOM ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION (LABORATORY/EXERCISES/PROBLEMS) including detailed procedures:
Students will design, build, and test a small "vehicle" powered by elastic bands and a small propeller. Students will document their process and in an engineering notebook.
1) Students form groups of 2 - 3 students and review the build instructions, constraints and materials.
2) Students brainstorm ideas and document their 3 best ideas, selecting one for a prototype
3) Students build the prototype using only the materials supplied, and test it by "driving" down a table top. A good design will travel in a straight line at a steady speed once started.
4) Students record all design and trial data in their engineering notebooks.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS TO ELICIT CLASS DISCUSSION:
The teacher will review the concept of constraints in engineering design and challenge students to think carefully about the function of each of the materials in their design.
Research Experiences for Teachers (RET) – 2014

HOMEWORK ACTIVITY/EXERCISES/PROBLEMS:
Preparation includes review of engineering design method

PARAMETERS TO EVALUATE STUDENT WORK PRODUCTS:
Does the device work as designed? Are ideas, designs and trial data recorded properly in the engineering notebook?

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. 1301071

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