

# Hands-on STEAM Made Simple

**Grades K-8** 







# CREATE THE NEXT GENERATION OF INNOVATORS

TinkRworks for grades K-8 was developed by educators and engineers and is a critical piece of STEAM and project-based learning initiatives for school systems nationwide.

Designed to motivate students in unprecedented ways, TinkRworks promotes cross-curricular connections to computer science, data analysis, design, ELA, engineering, math, and science.

> K-8 PROJECTS

Hands-on projects can be used flexibly across several grade levels.

#### STANDARDS-RICH CURRICULUM

Comprehensive instructional support targets NGSS, CCSS, and CSTA standards.

#### PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

In-person, online, and blended training options support effective implementation.

# **Curriculum-Rich Projects for Grades K-8**

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	Art Electric		Ø	$\bigcirc$	•	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø
	Pampered Plant			Ø	Ø	Ø	•			
	LaunchPad				•	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø
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	TinkRbot					Ø				
	Planetary Pathways					Ø	Ø	Ø		
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• TARGET GRADE LEVELS STEAM curriculum developed to support the specific grade-level standards • GOOD FOR THESE GRADES, TOO

# Our Approach: PBL

# Project-based learning (PBL) is at the heart of everything we do.

PBL is an educational approach in which students explore real-world problems through individual and group projects. When done well, it allows students to make sense of why content is useful and how it might be applied.



A series of rigorous studies show that authentic, student-driven approaches to project-based learning improve student outcomes.



**SECOND-GRADE STUDENTS** in Michigan who used a project-based social studies and literacy curriculum demonstrated five to six more months of learning in social studies and two to three more months in informational reading than a comparison group (Duke et al., 2020).

**THIRD-GRADE STUDENTS** in Michigan who used an interdisciplinary project-based science curriculum performed 8 percentage points better than peers in traditional classes on a key science assessment (Krajcik et al., 2021).

**MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS** in California who learned science with a project-based curriculum outperformed their peers by 11 percentage points on a science assessment and also did better on the state's end-of-year math and English language arts assessments (Deutscher et al., 2021). Taken together, these studies provide clear evidence that rigorous project-based learning has a strong effect on student achievement. The research also found that these PBL programs improved certain aspects of social and emotional learning, and these effects were consistent across racial and socio-economic groups.

# **Core Design Principles** of PBL

#### CHALLENGING PROBLEM **OR ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

Problems or questions provide the organizing structure for PBL and make learning meaningful because they give learning a purpose—students are not just gaining knowledge in order to remember it; they're gaining knowledge in order to use it.

#### SUSTAINED INQUIRY

Challenging problems or questions are used to launch an inquiry designed to solve the problem or answer the question. The classic PBL project begins by students asking, "What do we know?" and "What do we need to know?" to solve the problem or answer the driving question.

#### **STUDENT VOICE**

Faced with a challenging problem or question, students must be able to exercise judgment and make decisions about how to resolve it. Otherwise, the project becomes an exercise or a set of directions to follow.

### REFLECTION

Careful reflection enables students to determine whether the problem-solving strategies they are using are appropriate to the problem being solved.

#### **DEEP INTEGRATION OF ACADEMIC STANDARDS**

Projects should feature deep integration with standards and be rooted in core subject areas, helping to deepen and build student knowledge of important topics. The goal of PBL is to help students deepen and build their knowledge of important topics.



# Professional Learning

Educators receive the tools they need for effective launch and implementation, including in-person, online, and blended training, as well as individual and team coaching.



#### FLEXIBLE IMPLEMENTATION

TinkRworks' flexible implementation options allow educators to personalize instructional time. Each project provides 10-18+ hours of instruction and can be used in science class, STEAM lab, after school, and summer school.

#### EXAMPLES OF IMPLEMENTATION SCENARIOS INCLUDE:

APPROACH	MODEL	SCHEDULE
Targeted	Supplemental Science Class STEAM Club Extended Day	Once weekly for 45-60 minutes up to 15 weeks
STEAM Everyday	STEAM Lab Summer School Extended Day	Every day for 45-60 minutes over a 5-6-week period

# **Online Teaching Platform**

An online teaching resource center includes all the information teachers need to facilitate classroom instruction, build projects and assess students.

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#### LESSON PLANS

Detailed curriculum maps provide a comprehensive overview for each lesson including, learning objectives, key concepts, vocabulary, pacing suggestions and how content is aligned to grade-specific standards.

## INSTRUCTIONAL SLIDES

Content-rich slides are used to help structure lessons with background information and lead classroom discussion. Detailed notes are included for educators as they guide students through each lesson.

#### PROJECT BUILD VIDEOS

Step-by-step videos support the build process to ensure successful completion of each project. Project build videos are embedded within the instructional slides.

#### ASSESSMENTS

Formal and informal assessments offer a combination of multiple choice, written response and true/false questions. Students may be assessed on content-specific understanding and/or their ability to create, understand or troubleshoot programming. Digital portfolios are also included as a place for students to document and reflect on their experience.



### **Programming Environment**

A drag-and-drop, block-based programming environment helps students develop algorithms and create code that is uploaded wirelessly to projects. Each student's custom code for their project's

various components (including lights, speakers, motors and more) brings their project to life in their own unique way. No prior coding experience is required, for both facilitators and students.



# STEAM Academy

### GRADE K

Using a circuit board, microcontroller, programmable LEDs and a speaker, students program their masterpieces into life with lights and sounds that enrich their artistic themes. Through exploratory and kinetic activities, students examine the science of light and sound, discover how electricity and circuits work, and learn how echolocation can be mimicked with technology. This project supports Social and Emotional Learning through activities that allow students to relate how sound and color affect how they feel.



In STEAM Academy, hundreds of slides provide rich visuals (and detailed teacher notes!) to facilitate a conversation around each learning objective, lesson by lesson.





#### ORGANIZE ACTIVITIES

STEAM Academy lesson plans help educators structure classroom instruction. Stay organized with lesson objectives, expected outcomes, relevant standards, pacing options and more.



#### **ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

What can we create that uses all five parts of STEAM?

	Introduction to
	STEAM Academy
	Electricity
	Circuit Board Build
	What is Coding?
5	Light and Dark
5)	Colored Light
	Programming Lights
3	Sound is Vibration
$\overline{\mathbf{b}}$	Sound Choices
0	Programming Sound
	Sensors and Echolocation
2	Attach Ultrasonic Sensor
3	Final Assembly and Programming

# Smart Lamp

### GRADE 1

Students use technology to express emotions through the creation of a Smart Lamp—a color-changing light box that plays music. They learn about the properties of light and sound, how music is composed, and how to build their own Smart Lamp, including installing a circuit board, Arduino (micro-controller or mini-computer), speaker and LEDs. Using a touch-screen app and Bluetooth, they program expressions of emotion and set up a remote that switches between moods at a touch of a button. This project supports Social and Emotional Learning through activities that allow students to relate how they feel.

#### **GUIDE DISCUSSION**

In Smart Lamp, hundreds of slides provide rich visuals (and detailed teacher notes!) to facilitate a conversation around each learning objective, lesson by lesson.





#### ORGANIZE ACTIVITIES

Smart Lamp lesson plans help educators structure classroom instruction. Stay organized with lesson objectives, expected outcomes, relevant standards, pacing options and more.



#### **ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

How can we use smart technology to express our emotions and moods?

1	Introduction to Smart Lamp
2	Electricity and Circuits
3	Illumination and Transparency
4	Smart Lamp Build
5	Colored Light Mixing
6	Programming and Controlling Lights
7	Communicating with Light
8	Sound
9	Music and Programming Music
10	Composing Moods
11	Final Programming
12)	Decorate Your Smart Lamp

## **Art Electric**

### GRADES 1-2, 3-5, 6-8

Art Electric explores the basics of design, art and programming. Students use a wide range of materials to create a custom, interactive art project and enhance their design with 3D sculpted pieces, LEDs, sounds, an ultrasonic sensor and a motor. Throughout the build process, students use a programming environment to customize their design and bring their artwork to life. This project can be used with students across many grades. Instructional guides support primary, intermediate and middle school classrooms.



#### **GUIDE DISCUSSION**

In Art Electric, hundreds of grade-appropriate slides provide rich visuals (and detailed teacher notes!) to facilitate a conversation around each learning objective, lesson by lesson.





#### **ORGANIZE ACTIVITIES**

Art Electric lesson plans help educators structure classroom instruction. Stay organized with lesson objectives, expected outcomes, relevant standards, pacing options and more.



#### **ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

How can you create a custom, interactive art project by implementing various electronics and programming them to portray an expression?

	Introduction to Art Electric
2	Electricity
3	Light and RGB Colors
4	Programming Lights
5	Sound
6	Programming Sound
7	Motors
8	Programming Motors
9	3D Art
10	Sensors
11)	Final Assembly and Programming

# Pampered Plant

### GRADE 2

Students combine electronics, sensors and Arduino boards (micro-controllers or mini-computers) to build and code a plant-monitoring station that will indicate the "happiness level" of a plant. Along the way, students dive into biology and learn about plant science, as well as how each of the electronic components of the project function. They bring their plant monitoring system to life by animating the LED display to respond to the conditions of the plant: soil moisture and amount of light. Students will create these display designs using binary code and program their monitor using a touch-screen app.

#### **GUIDE DISCUSSION**

In Pampered Plant, hundreds of slides provide rich visuals (and detailed teacher notes!) to facilitate a conversation around each learning objective, lesson by lesson.





#### ORGANIZE ACTIVITIES

Pampered Plant lesson plans help educators structure classroom instruction. Stay organized with lesson objectives, expected outcomes, relevant standards, pacing options and more.



#### **ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

How can we know when a potted plant needs more water or light?

	Introduction to
_	Pampered Plant
2	Plant Needs Experiment
3	Moisture Sensor
4	Binary and Symbols
5	Code LED Display
6	Plants and Pollinators
7	Light Sensor
8	Final Programming
9	Painted Pottery
10	Plant Care and Potting

# LaunchPad

### GRADES 3-5, 6-8

Students program a hand-held electronic circuit board equipped with touch sensors, lights, sounds, remote control and an accelerometer. The LaunchPad circuit board can be programmed as an electronic board game, a light and sound show, a musical instrument, a speed reaction game, a balance device or anything else students can think of. Unlike other coding platforms, students learn the fundamentals of coding principles through activities, thought experiments, class discussions, journaling, and guided and independent coding. They also explore and use real-life coding strategies to make their ideas come to life.

#### **GUIDE DISCUSSION**

In LaunchPad, hundreds of slides provide rich visuals (and detailed teacher notes!) to facilitate a conversation around each learning objective, lesson by lesson.





#### ORGANIZE ACTIVITIES

LaunchPad lesson plans help educators structure classroom instruction. Stay organized with lesson objectives, expected outcomes, relevant standards, pacing options and more.



ESSENTIAL QUESTION How can we use programming to turn a circuit board into an interactive game console?



# Weather Station

### GRADE 3

Weather Station focuses on scientific concepts related to earth science. Students will build a weather monitoring system using a microcontroller and a sensor that measures multiple weather parameters. Students program their sensor using sequencing, loops and conditionals to collect data and display this data on an LCD screen. They learn about the factors that affect weather, such as temperature and humidity, and how weather data is collected and analyzed.

#### **GUIDE DISCUSSION**

In Weather Station, hundreds of slides provide rich visuals (and detailed teacher notes!) to facilitate a conversation around each learning objective, lesson by lesson.





#### ORGANIZE ACTIVITIES

Weather Station lesson plans help educators structure classroom instruction. Stay organized with lesson objectives, expected outcomes, relevant standards, pacing options and more.



#### **ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

How can we observe and collect weather data using technology?

	Introduction to Weather Station
2	Temperature
	Electricity and Circuits
	Weather Station Build
5	The Water Cycle and Clouds
6	Introduction to Programming
	TinkRcode and LCD Screen
8	Humidity
9	Sunshine and Rainbows
10	Programming Current Weather Measurements
11	Data Trends
12	Programming Dial
13	Conditionals
14	Weather Impact
15	Measurement Logs
16	Climate
17	Final Programming and Gluing
18	Weather Forecasting

## TinkRbot

### GRADE 4

Students design, build and program a robot from scratch. The class begins with the assembly of kitted robots from parts provided by TinkRworks. Students also use our block-based programming environment to program the robots to accomplish challenges provided by instructors. These challenges are designed to allow students to develop logic and



programming skills fundamental to all robotics. With a basic understanding of robotics in place, students create a robot with uniquely programmed capabilities.

#### **GUIDE DISCUSSION**

In TinkRbot, hundreds of slides provide rich visuals (and detailed teacher notes!) to facilitate a conversation around each learning objective, lesson by lesson.





#### ORGANIZE ACTIVITIES

TinkRbot lesson plans help educators structure classroom instruction. Stay organized with lesson objectives, expected outcomes, relevant standards, pacing options and more.



#### **ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

How can we build, personalize and program a robot that can meet a variety of challenges while expressing our individualism?

	Introduction to TinkRbot
2	Motors and Wheels
3	PCB and Batteries
4	Introduction to Lights and RGB pixels
5	Programming Lights
6	Introduction to Sound
7	Programming Sound
8	Introduction to Motors
9	Programming Motors
10	Introduction to Sensors and Ultrasonic
(11)	Programming Ultrasonic
(12)	Programming with Subroutines
(13)	Programming Remote Control
(14)	Final Coding

# **Planetary Pathways**

### GRADE 5

Students create a motorized rotating model of the sun, earth and moon, bringing to life their learnings about planetary and lunar orbits. The model they create, called an Orrery, teaches students about how the relationship between our planet and other celestial bodies affects life on earth, and how those relationships change throughout the day, month



and year. Using calculations from gear ratios and motor speed, students will program their Orrery to move the earth and moon certain time intervals, such as by month or by year. They learn how the movement of the earth and moon affects what we see in the sky, the temperature on earth and the movement of shadows.

#### **GUIDE DISCUSSION**

In Planetary Pathways, hundreds of slides provide rich visuals (and detailed teacher notes!) to facilitate a conversation around each learning objective, lesson by lesson.





#### ORGANIZE ACTIVITIES

Plantetary Pathways lesson plans help educators structure classroom instruction. Stay organized with lesson objectives, expected outcomes, relevant standards, pacing options and more.



#### **ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

How can we create a model of the solar system that demonstrates the movements of the earth and moon and how that impacts what we see in the sky and feel on earth?

1	Introduction to Planetary Pathways
2	Build the Base
3	Motors
4	Programming Motors
5	Earth's Rotation
6	Programming Buttons
7	Gears
8	Encoder
9	Finish Build
(10)	Earth's Orbit
(11)	Program Earth's Orbit
(12)	Earth's Seasons
(13)	Moon's Orbit
(14)	Stars
(15)	Wrapping Up

## TinkRdrone

### GRADES 6-8

Students design, build and fly their very own quadcopters. They learn all about the science of flight as they build their drones to achieve compromises between speed, acrobatics and stability. Students experiment with different materials to find one that is optimal for their project, learn about the electronics, and wire components together to get their drones airborne. This exercise in creativity and problem-solving skills reviews key science concepts. Students practice the art of flight and take home their very own drone.



#### **GUIDE DISCUSSION**

In TinkRdrone, hundreds of grade-appropriate slides provide rich visuals (and detailed teacher notes!) to facilitate a conversation around each learning objective, lesson by lesson.





#### ORGANIZE ACTIVITIES

TinkRdrone lesson plans help educators structure classroom instruction. Stay organized with lesson objectives, expected outcomes, relevant standards, pacing options and more.



#### **ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

How can we explore and investigate the forces that affect drone flight?

1 Introduction to TinkRdrone
2 TinkRdrone Frame Decoration
3 Basics of Drone Flight
4 Drone Build: Motor Mount and Flight Board
5 Flight Preparation
6 Flight Practice Session #1
7 Drone Build – Motors
8 Flight Practice Session #2
9 Lift Experiment
10 Propeller Decoration and Installation
11 Batteries
12 Troubleshooting Challenges
13 Flight Time
14 Troubleshooting and Drone Maintenance

### **SensorBot**

### GRADES 6-8

Students learn about robotics as they assemble and code robots capable of sensing and reacting to their surroundings. They experiment with different sensors: touch, reflectance, ultrasonic and infrared. After integrating sensors, students develop coding skills by programming the robot to



solve challenges, such as following lines and object detection and avoidance. Students incorporate motions and light into the robot's reactions.

#### **GUIDE DISCUSSION**

In SensorBot, hundreds of grade-appropriate slides provide rich visuals (and detailed teacher notes!) to facilitate a conversation around each learning objective, lesson by lesson.







#### ORGANIZE ACTIVITIES

SensorBot lesson plans help educators structure classroom instruction. Stay organized with lesson objectives, expected outcomes, relevant standards, pacing options and more.



#### **ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

How can sensor readings be combined to make a robot accomplish specific goals?

	Introduction to SensorBot
2	SensorBot Build 1
3	Introduction to Motors
4	SensorBot Build 2
5	Programming Movement
6	Lights
7	Subroutines
8	Servos
8 9	Servos Ultrasonic Sensor
8 9 10	Servos Ultrasonic Sensor Reflectance Sensor
8 9 10 11	Servos Ultrasonic Sensor Reflectance Sensor Touch Sensor
8 9 10 11 12	Servos Ultrasonic Sensor Reflectance Sensor Touch Sensor IR Sensor
8 9 10 11 12 13	Servos Ultrasonic Sensor Reflectance Sensor Touch Sensor IR Sensor Mazes Final Programming

## Morse Coding

### GRADES 6-8

Students explore the history of human communications from cave drawings to wireless devices. They replicate a traditional wired telegraph, study Morse code and use it to communicate information with other students within the classroom, learn about wireless communications and how to create a device that acts as a "wireless



telegraph," and explore how radio waves can be used to transmit and receive information. As they develop their devices, students learn all about circuits and electronics and use them to wirelessly communicate with each other.



#### **ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

How can we use technology to create a two-way communication device?

#### LESSON MODULES

	Introduction
2	Electricity
3	Electromagnets
4	Build
5	Analog Signals
6	Telegraph Game
7	Digital Signals
8	LED Display
9	Programming the Button
10	Wireless
11	Coding Wireless
12)	State Machines
13	Functions
14	Digital Translation 1
15	Digital Translation 2
16)	Wrap Up

#### **GUIDE DISCUSSION**

In Morse Coding, hundreds of grade-appropriate slides provide rich visuals (and detailed teacher notes!) to facilitate a conversation around each learning objective.



#### **ORGANIZE ACTIVITIES**

Morse Coding lesson plans help educators structure classroom instruction. Stay organized with lesson objectives, expected outcomes, relevant standards, pacing options and more.

# **Coming Soon!**

At TinkRworks, we're always working on what's next. These projects in development include hands-on activities, standards-informed instruction, age- and grade-appropriate coding environments, assessment tools and professional development.



Students create a music mixing board to produce, manipulate and synthesize sounds. They explore using circuits to produce music and learn about electromagnetic waves, rhythms and frequency spectra. The physics of waves and energy are investigated while composing music.



(888) 998-4657 | info@tinkrworks.com TinkRworks.com

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