



STIIX™

Lesson Plan

Hey there! My name is Alex Reader (great last name for working in education, right? 😊) & I am the founder here @ STIIX.



I am a former Engineer & Teacher, and I have a huge passion for bringing meaningful STEM experiences to students.

If this is your 1st STIIX lesson / project, we want to say thank you! We hope both you & your students enjoy the hands-on activities, and please know we are here to offer any support along the way.

All of our projects follow the infamous 'Engineering Design Process', shown below. This process is so meaningful to me because not only is it applicable here for fun activities like this, but also in life...design constraints are representative of the real world, failure is okay, and constantly making improvements is what life is all about!

The purpose of this lesson plan is just to point you in the right direction and to share all the helpful resources we provide to help make this activity a smooth, memorable, & impactful one!

If any question pop up at all after scanning through, please do not hesitate to call or email!

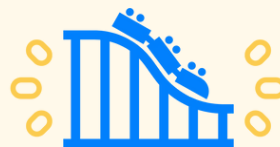


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Roller Coaster



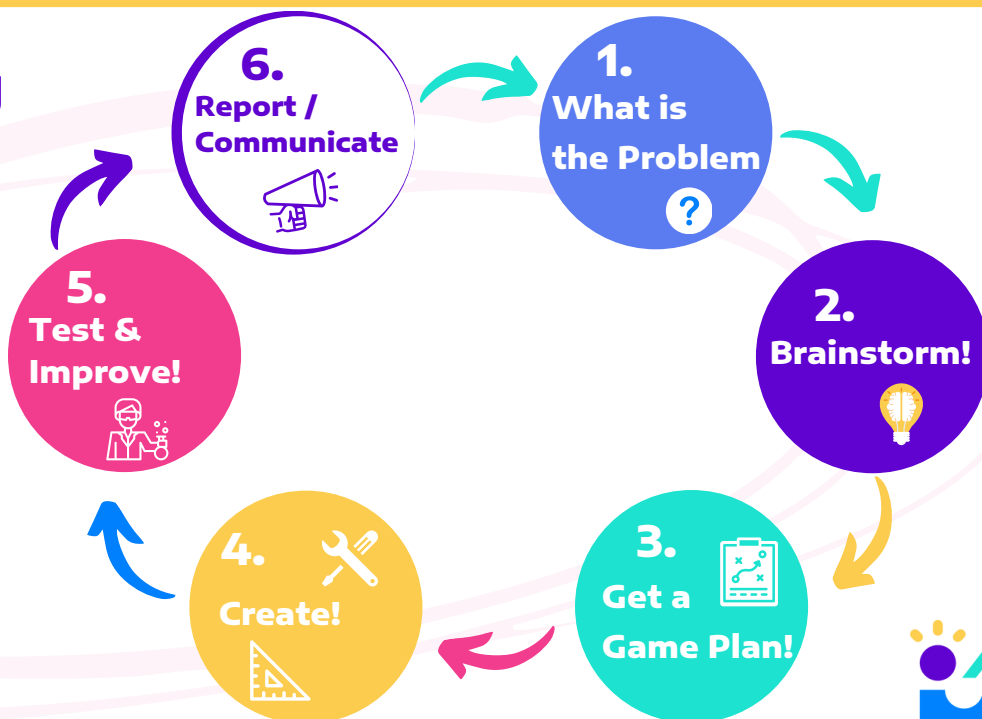
Topics: Energy Transfer, Acceleration

Career Exploration: Theme Park Eng.

Length: 2-3 Hours

Teams: 1-3 students

The Engineering Design Process



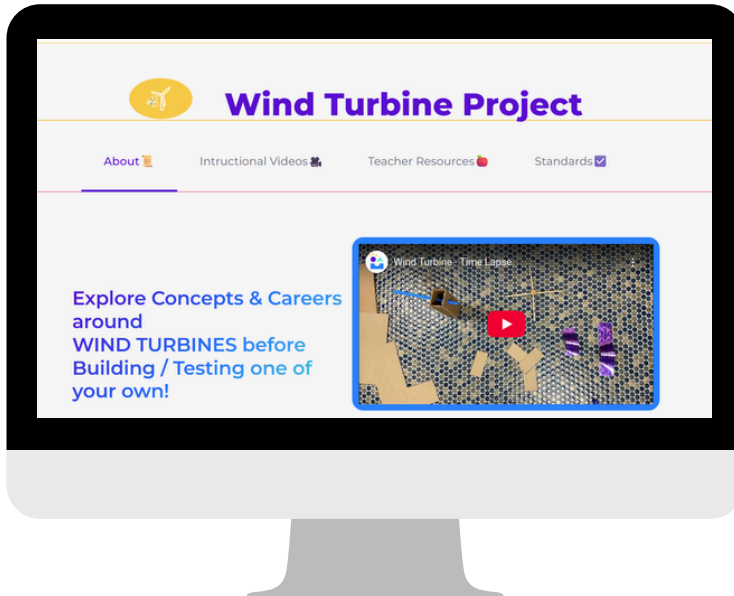
So where do I start?

In case you have not found it already, you will want to navigate to the [Roller Coaster Project Page](#).

To locate it, click on the "[Projects](#)" tab on our website (www.hellostiix.com) and click the  icon, or feel free to scan this QR code:



If you see something like this, you are in the right place! 👍

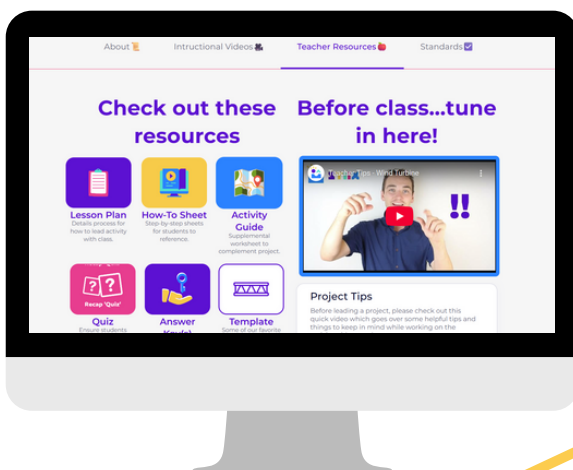


These tabs are where all the magic happens:

- "About 📄"
 - See general info. examples, a timelapse, etc.
- "Videos 🎥"
 - These are the student-facing instructional videos
- "Resources 🍎"
 - A digital copy of this LP, along with other resources for teachers are housed here.
- "Standards ✅"
 - Peek here at some of the standards this activity aligns with.

Beforehand:

Don't worry, preparation is super minimal! We want to make this the easiest way possible for you to lead a meaningful STEM lesson 🙌

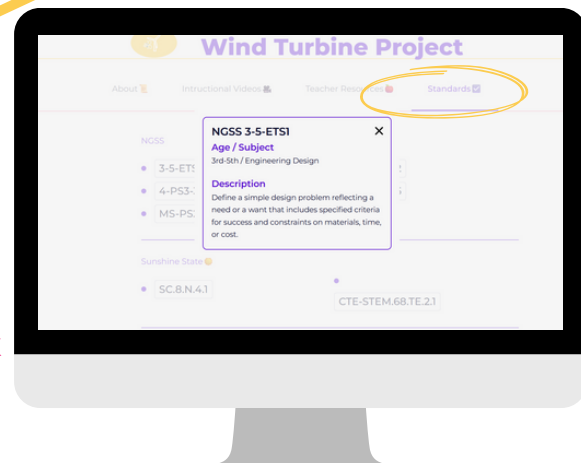


Be sure to check out our [TEACHER TIPS VIDEO](#) that we make for each project. In them, we detail helpful insight for how to feel comfortable & confident going into the project with your group.

1.

2.

Our projects align with some of the latest national standards. Click through the '[Standards](#)' tab to see how the content meshes with your grade band & initiatives.



Project Objective:



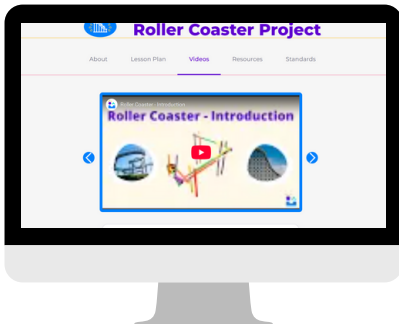
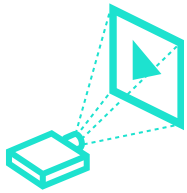
Students will apply principles of physics, motion, and energy transformation to design, construct, and test a functioning roller coaster using straws and a foam board base.

Set in the imaginative city of STIIX-Ville, students are hired to create a thrilling new ride for a theme park currently under development. Through this challenge,

students will explore the conversion of potential to kinetic energy, momentum, and track design while documenting their engineering process and analyzing the performance of their coaster.

Although this specific project is not on there, check out our optional Augmented Reality app, STIIX-Ville. In it, students can bring concepts & careers to life for 6 other of our other STIIX projects. 🏢

The Process:



1. Project & Play Videos (10-15 mins.)

STIIX has a series of 5 videos we play for the students to introduce the project & how to go about building it. We like to project these at the front of the room.

- V1 = Introduction
- V2 = Academics
- V3 = 'How- To'
- V4 = Testing & Eval.
- V5 = Industry Spotlight

Optional:

- Have students take note of any questions, potential challenges, unfamiliar terms, etc. they encounter during the video(s)
- Pause when prompted to discuss the inquiry-based learning questions!



This step provides some context, immerses students into a story, and introduces the “Problem / Scenario at hand”



2. Group up & Brainstorm (~15 mins.)

- Break up into teams of 1-3
 - If >3, standing around can tend to occur
- Prompt them to recollect our task
- Get ideas, design solutions, & roles written down on paper
- Use this as thinking time... encourage groups to talk to partners, ask questions, THINK BIG!
 - The temptation is to rush through this step...we strongly encourage groups to be thorough and take this step seriously (building the foundation).
- Once you green light their design, they are free to get their materials
 - Green light if design looks/sounds appropriate & they have a plan for the construction!



Here is the students' chance to Brainstorm + Get a Game Plan



3. Pass out Materials (<5 mins.)

Take time to set out materials in an organized fashion for students before class, while videos are playing, or while they are brainstorming.

Individual Mats.

- x40 Straws ⚡
- x1 Foam Base ⚡
- x1 Pencil
- x4 Sm. Plastic Cups ⚡
- x1 Ping Pong Ball
- XS Pop Sticks / Connectors ⚡
 - As needed, but ~16 max



= Included in Refill Kit

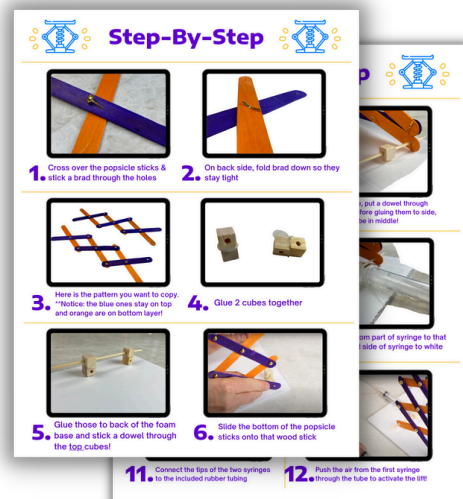
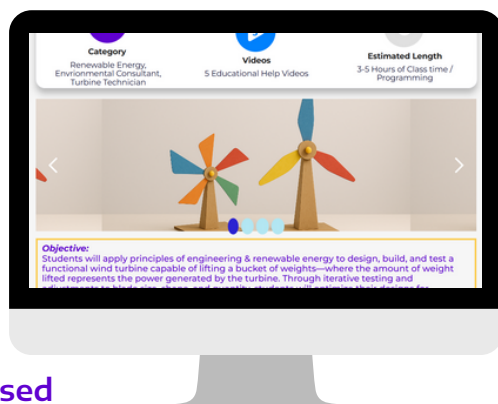
Shared / Group Mats.

- How-To Sheets
- Glue Dots ⚡
- Duct Tape
- Hot Glue ⚡
- Markers to draw design ideas
- Newspaper Sheets

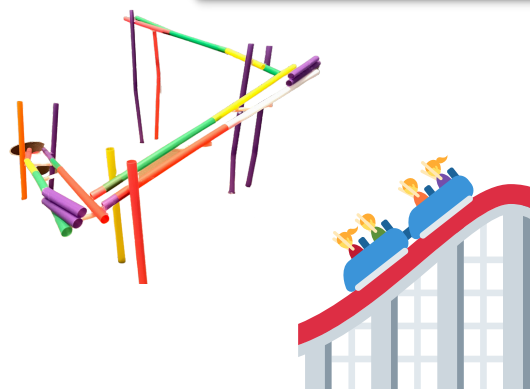
Friendly reminder that not all of the materials are REQUIRED to be used ...but rather, this is what they have at their disposal as they design their project.

4. Get to Building (45 mins - 1.5 hrs.)

- Pass out "Step-by-Step" sheets
 - Should have a couple of copies printed in kit.
 - If students ask you questions, ask them if they have... #1. even attempted yet -AND/OR- #2. If they have referenced the instructions before you provide help.
- Optional: Leave the "Gallery" section of the project page up on the projector while students are building.

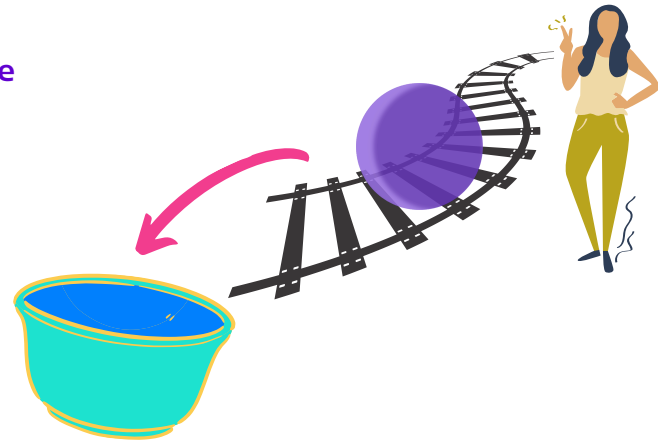
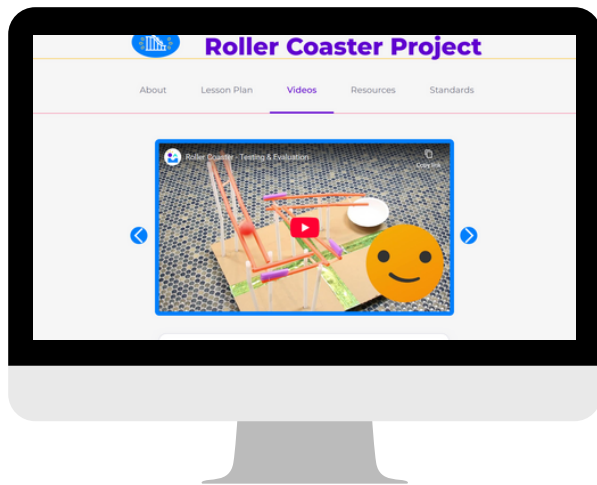


- Hot glue may be used
 - Make sure students are wearing gloves while using. Working over newspaper sheets will also prevent messes.
- If project will carry over into another day, have students write names on their materials / work.
- Typically students do not finish in one day...anticipate students to get partially through the "Build" section and pick up where you left off next time!



5. Testing / Cleanup (~15 - 30 mins.)

- Follow testing instructions per the 4th video
- You can also play V5 (Industry Spotlight) at the end of the project once project is wrapping up



- While other groups are testing, finished groups should begin cleaning up workspaces.
- Award the “STEM-MVP” sticker(s)



Key Vocabulary



Please keep an eye & ear out for the following vocab words:

**Potential Energy, Kinetic Energy,
Track, Friction, Bumper**

Extension Activities:

Check out the following options to lengthen or compress this lesson.



- Decorate Base of the coaster like a theme park
- Film tests in Slo-Mo and analyze
- Watch additional videos related to Roller Coasters
- Use a different strategy to build a 2nd bridge & compare
- Try to add a drop in the coaster



- Can also try folding paper and using that as coaster tracks
- Copy one of our coasters
- Just do a straight line coaster
- Students ahead can help out others who may be behind



Optional Supplements:

Check out our activity guides, quizzes, technology, and more on the project page to see if implementing those makes sense for your classroom!

Social-Emotional



RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

STIIX activities are ideal for working in teams of 2-3 solving practical problems together.

SOCIAL AWARENESS

For open-ended challenges, different people have different approaches / ideas. How can we decide on the best one, or better yet, combine thoughts?

RESPONSIBLE DECISIONS

Our materials are age appropriate, but also need to be used safely and responsibly. Students' teams are counting on them to bear that responsibility and contribute.

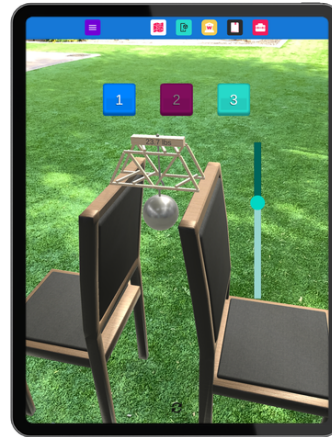
SELF MANAGEMENT

The Engineering Design Process creates emotional ups and downs throughout the project. How do the students handle the inevitable obstacles and victories?

SELF AWARENESS

Our projects introduce students to some of the hottest STEM career fields. Our hope is they resonate with a project and spark a passion for a future career field!

STIIX -Ville

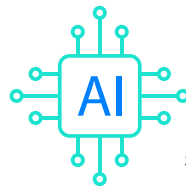


Although this project is not one of the 6 STIIX projects on the app, check out the amazing content, resources, and activities we have on there to bring some cutting-edge technology to this project!



Reading / Writing / Presenting

Task students with some reflection questions from our provided 'Follow Up Quiz', or reinforce some topics through our 'Activity Guide' handouts.



If you are looking for helpful extensions, try this prompt into your favorite AI Chatbot 😊

"I just did a [Project Name] STEM project with my [grade level] students. Can you find me articles, videos, and/or publications that are age-appropriate and help extend or reinforce the core concepts of the project? I'm especially looking for resources that connect this topic to real-world applications, careers, or current innovations."

- **Optional....** "...that align with NGSS for {Grade}" -OR- "...with a focus on {your focus}." -OR- "...including YouTube videos, interactive websites, or kid-friendly news articles." -OR- "...that I can use as a pre-project hook or post-project extension."

