Years 3/4

Mechanisms
Levers and linkages

Instant CPD

Tips for teachers

- ✓ Give children the opportunity to make examples of lever and linkage mechanisms though focused tasks.
- ✓ Preparing a plentiful supply of card strips can be useful to speed up the process.
- ✓ Card from recycled packaging is a cost-efficient way of providing enough material for children to experiment with different arrangements and to make mock-ups and prototypes.
- ✓ When working with thin card, a hole can be made for the paper fastener pivot by pressing a pencil through the card on to a piece of Plasticine or Blu Tack.
- ✓ A picture can be drawn on and cut out from another piece of card and glued on to the output levers.
- ✓ Windows can be cut out of the backing sheet or extra pieces added so that the picture on the output lever is hidden and then revealed.
- ✓ The backing sheet can be shaped to suit the picture.
- ✓ Guides/bridges can be made using strips of card fixed with masking tape e.g. white card on diagrams.
- ✓ Display technical vocabulary and encourage the children to use it when discussing mechanisms and when designing and making.
- ✓ Make sure the existing books children investigate include moving pictures that are similar to the teaching aids.

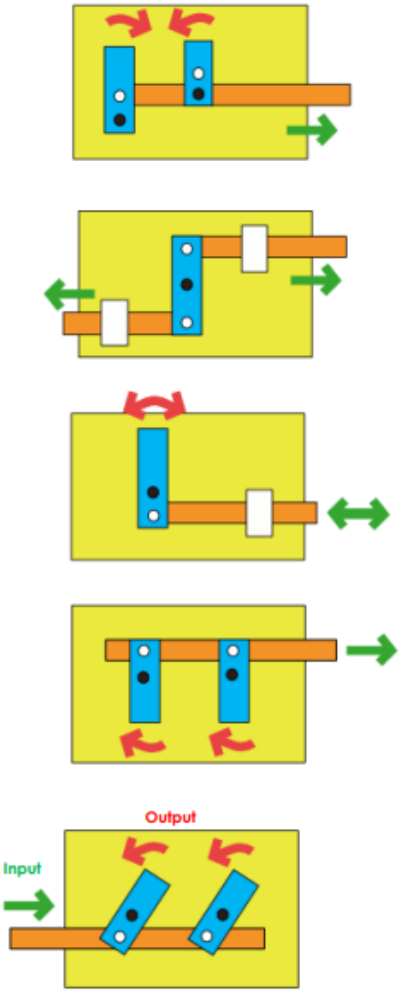
Useful resources at www.data.org.uk

- Levers and linkages - Poster and Support Pack
- Mechanisms with a message
- Moving history book
- Working with Sliders and Levers (Years 1/2)

Teaching aids to demonstrate levers and linkages

Fixed pivot

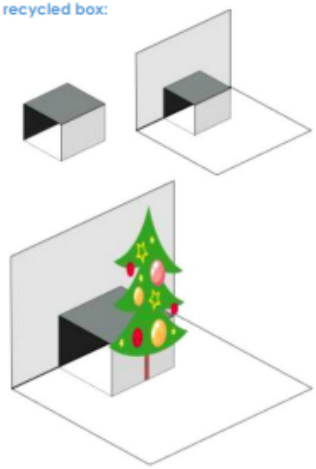
Loose pivot



When you push the card strip (input movement), the two levers move (output movement).

Pop-up mechanisms can be added to children's moving pictures as an enhancement. However, to build on work with simple levers and sliders in KS1, it is important to focus children's learning during this project on levers and

Making a pop-up from a small section of a recycled box:



1. Cut a slice off a small box.
2. Glue two sides to the paper.
3. Stick a picture to pop up on the front.

Lever and linkage mechanisms usually produce oscillating or reciprocating movement:

Linear – in a straight line

Reciprocating – backwards and forwards in a straight line e.g. a slider

Rotary – round and round e.g. a wheel, cam, pulley, gear wheel

Oscillating – backwards and forwards in an arc e.g. a lever

Designing, making and evaluating a greetings card with moving parts for family or friends

An iterative process is the relationship between a pupil's ideas and how they are communicated and clarified through activity. This is an example of how the iterative design and make process *might* be experienced by an individual pupil during this project:

THOUGHT	ACTION
What sort of greetings card shall I make and who will it be for? What part will move? How will it appeal to the user?	Discussing ideas, drawing annotated sketches, generating design crite
How will it move?	Discussing ideas, mode possible lever and linka mechanisms.
Which lever and linkage mechanism will work best for my greetings card?	Discussing and evaluati mock-ups and prototyp against design criteria.
What media and materials will I use?	Discussing, exploring and trialling media and materials.
Who will I work with? How long will it take? What order will I work in? What tools and techniques will I use?	Negotiating, developing and agreeing a plan of action.
More thoughts ... appraising, reflecting, refining.	More actions ... building, testing, modifying.
Will the greetings card meet the needs of the user and achieve its purpose?	Evaluating the greetings card with the intended user and against design criteria.

Glossary

- **Mechanism** – a device used to create movement in a product.
- **Lever** – a rigid bar which moves around a pivot. Levers are used in many everyday products. In this project children will use card strips for levers and paper fasteners for pivots.
- **Linkage** – the card strips joining one or more levers to produce the type of movement required. The term 'linkage' is also used to describe the lever and linkage mechanism as a whole.
- **Slot** – the hole through which a lever is placed to enable part of a picture to move.
- **Guide or bridge** – a short card strip used to keep lever and linkage mechanisms in place and control movement.
- **Loose pivot** – a paper fastener that joins card strips together.
- **Fixed pivot** – a paper fastener that joins card strips to the backing card.
- **System** – a set of related parts or components used to create an outcome. Systems have an input, process and an output. In a lever and linkage mechanism, the 'input movement' is where the user pushes or pulls a card strip. The 'output movement' is where one or more parts of the picture move.

Years 3/4

Food
Healthy and varied diet

Instant CPD

Tips for teachers

- ✓ When choosing bought products to evaluate, choose some with simple fillings (such as cheese) and others with more variety (such as bacon, lettuce and tomato). Include some with fillings from a variety of cultures.
- ✓ Children may need help to develop design criteria for their product. You can model this by discussing what the design criteria may have been for an existing product that the children have previously evaluated before encouraging them to create their own.
- ✓ If you grow edible plants in the school grounds such as herbs, lettuce or tomatoes, encourage the children to use these in their food product. When possible, use some ingredients which are seasonal and locally sourced.
- ✓ It is advisable to have additional adult support when children are learning to prepare ingredients.
- ✓ Use a range of fresh and processed ingredients.
- ✓ Some ingredients can be cooked using a heat source with adult supervision to introduce children to techniques such as boiling an egg or roasting a pepper.
- ✓ Hygiene: tie long hair back, wear aprons, cover cuts with blue plasters and wash hands thoroughly with soap and dry with a paper towel. More details on www.foodafactoflife.org.uk.
- ✓ Homework idea 1: Ask children to collect pictures of related food products from magazines etc. Research which similar products are used around the world.
- ✓ Homework idea 2: Ask members of the children's family which is their favourite lunch snack and why.

Useful resources at www.data.org.uk

- Dips and Dippers
- Super Salads
- Sandwich Snacks
- Soups - Celebrating culture and seasonality

Other useful web-based resources:

- www.foodafactoflife.org.uk
- http://www.nhs.uk/livewell/5aday/pages/5adayhome.aspx

Wraps

Pitta bread sandwich

Sandwich

Skills and techniques

Grating cheese

Spreading butter on bread

Cutting using the bridge technique

Cutting using the claw technique

Investigating and Evaluating Activities

Children can analyse existing products related to their project using sensory evaluations and record their results in a table. Explain that tasting is not the same as eating. Provide kitchen towel so children can spit out food they do not like. Provide water to cleanse palette between tasting products.

Analysing existing products

Filling	Appearance	Smell	Flavour/ Taste	Texture	Dislike	Neither	Like
1							
2							
3							
4							
Word bank	Colourful Dark/pale Greasy Moist	Fruity Meaty Smoky Oniony Garlicky Fishy	Salty Herby Spicy Fishy Smoky	Crispy Crunchy Soft Chewy Sticky Smooth Hard			

Designing, making and evaluating a bread-based product with a filling for lunch, such as a wrap, a sandwich, a roll, a blini or a toastie

An iterative process is the relationship between a pupil's ideas and how they are communicated and clarified through activity. This is an example of how the iterative design and make process *might* be experienced by an individual pupil during this project:

THOUGHT	ACTION
Who am I making the food product for? How can I make it appealing for the range of users?	Discussing and communicating ideas, researching existing products, drawing annotated sketches, generating design criteria.
What kind of food product shall I make that can be carried easily? What ingredients could it contain?	Referring back to sensory evaluations carried out in IEAs.
How will I make sure it looks appealing as well as tastes and smells good?	Discussing ideas and how the type of food product and way it is eaten will affect the design.
What techniques will I use to prepare the ingredients and what equipment do I need?	Peeling, chopping, slicing, grating, spreading. Using tools such as round ended knives, vegetable peelers, apple corers, strawberry hullers and graters. Listing the equipment required.
How long will it take? What order will I work in?	Planning the order of the activity and timescale.
More thoughts... appraising, reflecting and refining.	Acting on ongoing evaluation to make appropriate changes.
Has the snack met the needs of the user and achieved its purpose?	Evaluating the food product against the design criteria including the user and purpose. Recording final product through an annotated sketch.

Glossary

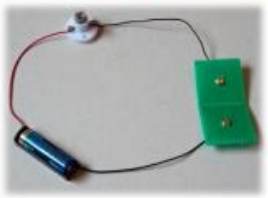
- **Appearance** – how the food looks to the eye.
- **Texture** – how the product feels in the mouth.
- **Sensory evaluation** – evaluating food products in terms of the taste, smell, texture and appearance.
- **Preference test** – trying different foods and deciding which you like best.
- **Strawberry huller** – tool to remove the stalk and leaves from a strawberry.
- **Processed food** – ingredients that have been changed in some way to enable them to be eaten or used in food preparation and cooking.

Years 3/4

Electrical Systems

Simple circuits and switches

Instant CPD



Tips for teachers

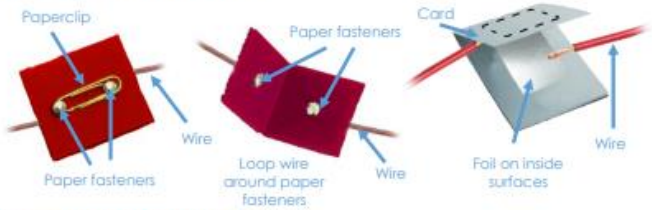
- ✓ This project should be undertaken either around the same time or soon after electricity is covered in science.
- ✓ Use a selection of images of existing battery-powered products to add to the actual products that children investigate and evaluate.
- ✓ Check the condition of the batteries prior to activities.
- ✓ Stress the need for making secure connections.
- ✓ To reduce the number of requests for help, model the fault-finding process: check all the connections, ensure that bulbs are screwed in tightly and ensure that components are correctly connected.
- ✓ Have a 'working' circuit set up so that children can test suspect components.
- ✓ Some components (e.g. buzzers) need to be connected the right way round in a circuit, ensuring positive and negative match the poles of the battery.
- ✓ Make sure bulbs and batteries match e.g. 1.5v bulb with a 1.5v battery.
- ✓ Do not use rechargeable batteries.
- ✓ CLEAPS recommend zinc carbon and zinc chloride batteries for Primary schools, not rechargeable, lithium of alkaline as these can overheat if short circuited. Button batteries are not recommended for younger children.

Useful resources at www.data.org.uk

- Torches, Lamps and Lanterns
- Developing Handmade Switches
- Night lights (links to Literacy)
- Handmade Switches Helpsheet
- Alarming Vehicles

Making secure connections

Handmade switches



Commercial switches

Push-to-break switch
The switch is off while the button is pushed, but returns to its 'on' position when button is released.

Push-to-make switch
When you push, the electricity flows through the circuit, but when you release it the circuit is broken and the switch is off.

Reed switch
Activated by a magnet – this closes the contacts and completes the circuit.

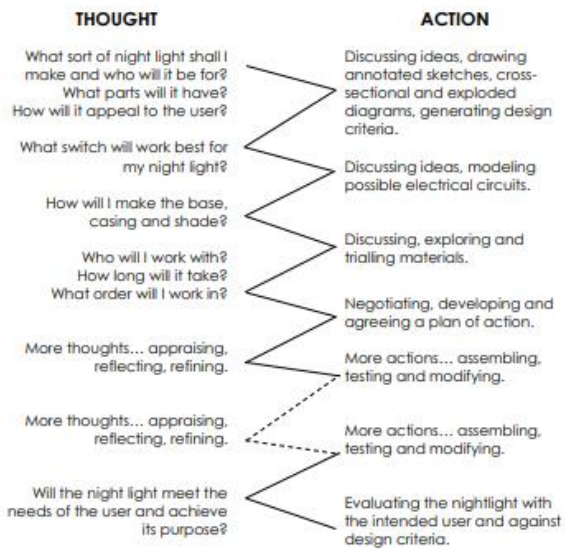
Toggle switch
Simple on/off switch

Standalone control box

When children are familiar with using electrical circuits they should be introduced to a simple standalone control box or an interface box. The box will replace their switches and battery, and children can program their product to work automatically.

Designing, making and evaluating a night light for a brother, sister or friend

An iterative process is the relationship between a pupil's ideas and how they are communicated and clarified through activity. This is an example of how the iterative design and make process *might* be experienced by an individual pupil during this project:



Glossary

- **Circuit** – path through which electricity passes.
- **Conductor** – a material which allows an electric current to pass through it.
- **Insulator** – a material which does not easily allow electric current to pass through it.
- **Prototype** – a model made to test whether a design will work.
- **Push-to-break switch** – a switch turned off by pressing it.
- **Push-to-make switch** – a switch turned on by pressing it.
- **Reed switch** – a switch operated by a magnet.
- **Toggle switch** – a switch operated when a lever is pressed.
- **System** – a set of related parts or components that together achieve a desired outcome.
- **Output devices** – components that produce an outcome e.g. bulbs and buzzers.
- **Input devices** – components that are used to control an electrical circuit e.g. switches.