Gr. 1 - Understanding Structures and Mechanisms

Materials, Objects, and Everyday Structures

A Strong Wall

Specific Expectations:

- 1.2 Assess objects in their environment that are constructed for similar purposes in terms of the type of materials they are made from, the source of these materials, and what happens to these objects when they are worn out or no longer needed.
- 2.1 Follow established safety procedures during science and technology investigations.
- 2.3 Investigate, through experimentation, the properties of various materials.
- 2.4 Use technological problem-solving skills, and knowledge acquired from previous investigations, to design, build, and test a structure for a specific purpose.
- 3.2 Describe structures as supporting frameworks.
- 3.4 Describe the function/purpose of the observable characteristics of various objects and structures, using information gathered through their senses.
- 3.5 Identify the materials that make up objects and structures.
- 3.7 Describe the properties of materials that enable the objects and structures made from them to perform their intended function.

Big Idea (for lesson):

Students investigate what makes a strong and sturdy wall, and test their wall in various conditions that are intended to replicate environmental and man-made forces.

Accommodations:	Differentiated Instruction:		
	Content: Use demo to show the content as		
	you offer verbal descriptions.		
	Process: Have students work in pairs and		
Chunking	support each other if physical impediments		
Step-by-Step	exist.		
Scaffolding	Product: Students may show their final		
Copy of Notes	product in pairs, and communicate their		
Student Grouping	findings either verbally, visually, or through		
	written means.		
	Other:		
Bloom's Taxonomy:	Multiple Intelligence:		
	∇erbal/Linguistic		
Comprehension	□ Logical/Mathematical		
Application	∀ Visual/Spatial		
Analysis	Bodily/Kinesthetic		
Synthesis ■	Naturalist		

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☐ Musical/Rhythmic

Delivering The Lesson:

Portion & Timing	Grouping:		ıg:	Introduction:	Materials
Minds On: 5 mins	W	S		Teacher introduces the notion of strength and stability in structures: -For stability, the teacher can have the class quickly compete against one another to see who can stand on one foot the longest. -For strength, the teacher can do a demo with sand and tissue paper, or show the analogous video using napkins and salt. The steps of the in-class demo can be found here: http://www.stevespanglerscience.com/lab/experiments/strong-sand Ask students if they consider sand to be a stable or strong surface to build a structure on. Ask them if they could use what they saw in the demo to make a strong structure? (Answer: compact the sand tightly to make "bricks", or whole walls)	A Strong Wall – Magic Tube – Sick Science! #138 Cardboard tube Sand Tissue Paper Rubber Bands Scissors Stick
Action: 30 mins	W	S 🖂		Have students build and test their different walls according to the instructions on the handout. Have a water station (a big bin with small watering can) set up beforehand. Teacher can circulate and ask questions of the different groups: -Do you think it matters that the bricks that touch lots of other bricks seem to make the strongest pattern? (Answer: yes, the friction between these several different surfaces works against the wall moving.) -What types of soil do you think your best wall would hold up well on? (Answer: something compact, such as clay or loam, would hold up better than a looser soil, sand, or pebbles.)	A Strong Wall Handout (Materials listed) Large tub of water Watering can
Consolidate: 5 mins	W	S	ı	As they finish, have the students draw their wall pattern down on the record sheet and compare with one another. Discuss any discrepancies, and the strengths/weaknesses of the different	Record Sheet

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		designs.	
		Discuss the environmental concerns that arise	
		with the building of walls: what factors are	
		important to consider when you're building?	
		(Answer: temperature, air flow, precipitation,	
		foundation, soil types, etc.)	